僕らはみんな河合荘

BOKURA WA MINNA KAWAISOU

MIYAHARA RURI PRESENTS

宮原るり

6

YKC僕らはみんな河合荘6巻トビラ

USA-KUN,
COULD YOU GET THE MAIL?
宇佐くん
郵便おねがい
YAWN
あふぅ
OH.
?
FROM N
THEY'RE ABOUT TO BLOOM.
IT'S SPRING.
!!!
RUSTLE
カサッ
DEAR USA-KUN,
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE SUDDEN LETTER.
BA-DUMP
SINCE I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE IN THE SAME CLASS,
THERE WAS SOMETHING I JUST HAD TO TELL YOU.

CHAPTER 47
I'M SO SORRY FOR EATING YOUR CREAM PUFFS.
MAYUMI
MAYUMI-SAN!
YOU CALLED ME THE OTHER DAY, AND TODAY I GOT THIS!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
AND OF COURSE WE WON'T BE IN THE SAME CLASS.
MAYUMI-SAN'S SO GOOD AT CHANGING HER VOICE.
YOU GOT A PHONE CALL FROM A GIRL. SHE SAYS IT'S IMPOR-TANT.
WHAT?
I'M SO SORRY!

DO YOU REALLY FEEL BAD ABOUT IT?
FROM THE PIT OF MY STOMACH!
I... I'M SO...
I GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.
I THOUGHT I'D MAKE UP FOR IT BY MAKING YOU HAPPY WITH SITUATIONS YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER GET TO ENJOY IN YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.
BUT... I FEEL BAD ABOUT IT.
THE ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT ME IS HOW ATTRACTIVE I AM.
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
THEN I'LL LET IT GO IF YOU APOLOGIZE.
...
FINE.
GIVE ME BACK CHARMY-SAN
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE FROM YOUR STOMACH!
I'M SO SORRY.
YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THAT
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

BE HONEST, THOUGH. DIDN'T THE LOVE LETTER MAKE YOUR HEART POUND?
THIS COULD BE LOVE LETTER IS LIKE AN EXTRA DRAMA!!
DID IT MAKE YOU WOOZY?
WHAT IF IT WERE FROM A REALLY CUTE GIRL?
NO WAY!
N-NO WAY.
WHAT IF IT SAID, "SLEEP WITH ME ONCE, JUST FOR THE MEMORY"?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT?
SHIRT: APPEARANCES
YOU SHOULD DO THAT WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE...
FUME
WOW, VIRGINS ARE SO RIGID!
ARE YOU SAVING YOUR FIRST KISS FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL, TOO?
GUFFAW
GUFFAW
KISSING IS NO BIG DEAL!
ALSO, I WISH YOU'D STOP ASSUMING I HAVEN'T KISSED—
YOU HEARD HIM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, RIT-CHAN?
. . .
WHATEVER.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I—
MORE IMPORTANTLY, MAYUMI-SAN...
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP SENDING ME APOLOGY E-MAILS WITH PHOTOS OF CHARMY-SAN ATTACHED?
I'M SORRY
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T GET MANY E-MAILS SINCE YOU'RE A LONER.
SO I SPICED IT UP BY MAKING IT A LITTLE PRO-VOCATIVE.
CAN I BLOCK YOU?
MY ROOM-MATES ARE BLOCKING ME!
I'VE FAILED AS A HUMAN BEING!
I'M...
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
STOP BEING SO INDECISIVE!
CAN I CHOOSE THE PLACE?
OF COURSE!
I KNOW! FOR A CHANGE OF PACE.
WHY DON'T WE GO OUT FOR DINNER TONIGHT?
USA.
RIT-CHAN.
I'LL TREAT YOU TO MAKE UP FOR IT.
LET'S HAVE FUN TONIGHT.

NISHIKINO MAYUMI'S CONCERT OF UNHAPPINESS AT A KARAOKE BOX
CURRENTLY ON SONG 15
TAKE ROOM 502
302号室へどうぞ
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE PICKED SO MANY SONGS BY HERSELF.

I WOULDN'T HAVE COME IF I HAD KNOWN IT WOULD BE KARAOKE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, SENPAI'S SINGING IS PRETTY TERRI—
UNIQUE AND EXPRESSIVE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY I'M TERRIBLE?
DO YOU WANT TO SING A...
SHAKE
SHAKE
ぶんぶんっ
OF COURSE NOT.

FLASH
BALLAD OF SINGING DESIRE
うたうたいのバラード
SAIKI YOSHIKAZU
斉木義和
WHAT A SURPRISING CHOICE OF SONG.
SO, I GUESS I'LL TASTE-TEST FOR YOU.
SAYAKA-CHAN'S A PRETTY GOOD SINGER, TOO.
HUH?
THAT'S A MALE SINGER...
IT'S FINALLY MY TURN.
FLASH
愛ある フォーチュンケーキ
MY BELOVED FORTUNE CAKE
ABK38
SORRY
THE NEXT SONG IS MINE, TOO.
I'M GOING TO A MIXER NEXT WEEK, SO I WANTED TO PRACTICE.
I WISH I COULD INVITE YOU, MAYUMI-SAN, BUT I THINK YOUR AGE WOULD MAKE IT A SAD EXPERIENCE.
I DON'T KEEP ANY MINIONS OVER 3!!
YOUR REPERTOIRE IS PRETTY BROAD...

TOMORROW WON'T BE SO BAD.
WHOOPS.
BLUSH
BLUSH
HERE YOU GO, WHO-EVER'S NEXT.
SMILE
NOT TOO GOOD, NOT TOO BAD
KEEPING PROPER RHYTHM
SITTING ON THE EDGE OF THE SEAT
TAP
TAP

FLASH
DID I PUT THE SAME SONG IN TWICE?
HUH?
SONG: MY BELOVED FORTUNE CAKE
WHEN
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
YOU'RE REALLY NASTY, AREN'T YOU?
YOUR PERSON-ALITY REP-ERTOIRE IS PRETTY BROAD, TOO.
WE CHOSE THE SAME SONG...
BLUSH
BLUSH
WHAT?!
MY13-YEAR-OLD'S DISEASE OF LIP-FEAT
SO CUTE
HOW CUTE

WHAT SHOULD I SING?
SOMETHING SENPAI WILL LIKE...
YOU THINK YOU GET TO SING WHEN I'M TREATING YOU...?
OH, WHOOPS. I DIDN'T KNOW "TREATING" COULD BE INTERPRETED THAT WAY.
SIGH
CAN I READ?
IN THAT CASE
YOU THINK YOU DON'T HAVE TO SING WHEN I'M TREATING YOU...?
YOU THINK YOU GET TO SING WHEN YOU'RE SHIRO...?
YES, I DO!
MAYUMI-SAN, YOU DON'T HESITATE TO CONTRADICT YOURSELF, DO YOU?

WHERE DID CHARMY-SAN COME FROM?!
I JUST FOUND HER IN MY BAG.
THAT'S TERRIFYING!
I'M SORRY. I'M JUST SO OLD AND INCONSIDERATE NOW...
HOW ABOUT ONE SONG?
NO WAY!
BESIDES, WHO PAYS SOMEONE BACK BY TAKING THEM TO KARAOKE?
ALL THIS NEGATIVE ENERGY IS MAKING CHARMY-SAN INCREASINGLY SINISTER.
I'LL HAVE TO STAND BY RIT-CHAN'S BED WHILE SHE SLEEPS EVERY NIGHT TO MAKE UP FOR IT.
WITH CHARMIE-SAN.
EIGHT THOU-SAND YEARS
MAY YOUR REIGN CON-TINUE FOR A THOU-SAND.
UNTIL THE PEB-BLES...

LUSH WITH MOSS.
...GROW INTO BOULDERS.
THAT'S WHY I LISTENED WITH MY HEART, INSTEAD OF MY EARS.
SENPAI DOESN'T SING WITH HER VOICE OR PITCH, BUT WITH HER HEART.
THIS BRINGS NEW POTENTIAL TO THE JAPANESE NATIONAL ANTHEM.
USA-KUN, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHIRT: APPEARANCES
NOW, NOW... WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LISTENING.
THE GUYS NEXT DOOR ARE HILARIOUS
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
HA HA HA
THE WALLS HERE ARE SURPRISINGLY THIN.
PFFFT

YOU HADN'T COME BACK YET, SO I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE READING SOMEWHERE.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO STAND OUT HERE BY YOURSELF.
...
I KNEW IT.
KARAOKE PLACES CAN BE PRETTY DANGEROUS!
I'M NOT MAD
YEAH, YEAH
I'LL BUY YOU SOMETHING IF I FIND A CABBER YOU
NOT GOOD
YEAH, YEAH
THE OTHER DAY A DRUNK WOULDN'T LEAVE THIS GIRL ALONE.
HMM
NOT MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE.
THANKS
YOU COME TO KARAOKE A LOT?
PEEK
IS IT OVER THERE, OR OVER HERE?
WHICH ROOM ARE WE IN?
I HAVEN'T BEEN SINCE SUMMER VACATION.
COMPARED TO YOU, I PRACTICE ALL DAYS ALONE.

SEN-PAI?
びっく
TWITCH
JUMP
ばっ
OW!
WHUD
ゴーン
SORRY...

DON'T SPY ON US, YOU PERVERTED KIDS!
JUMP
SLAM
!!!
?!
NO!
WERE THEY...
THEY WERE KISSING!
THAT'S
ALL...
BLUSH
OH.
REALLY.
I SEE...
I'D LIKE TO KISS SOMEONE, TOO.
GASP
A MAN SHOULDN'T GET SO FLUSTERED OVER A KISS. TALK ABOUT LAME.
HAVE SOME COMPOSURE.

IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME AT KARAOKE.
PEOPLE FEEL COMPELLED TO DO ALL KINDS OF THINGS.
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST FORGET IT.
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, HUH?
REALLY...
WHAT?
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, RIGHT?
WHAT?!
IF IT WERE ME, IT WOULD BE A HUGE DEAL!
AFTER ALL, I'VE NEVER KISSED ANYONE!
IF...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'D DO CASUALLY!
I...
I WANT...

I WANT TO SHARE ALL OF MY FIRSTS WITH SOMEONE I LOVE!
WITHDRAW
...
REAL-LY.
SHIT. I MESSED UP.
YOU CAN FIND IDIOTS IN THEIR PRIME ANYWHERE.
...?
I THOUGHT MAYUMI-SAN WOULD GO ATTACK OUR NEIGHBORS WITH CHARMY-SAN.
HEY, LISE YOUR WORDS!
I DECIDED THEN.
LIKE TAKE IT OUT ON STRANGERS.
JUST BECAUSE I'M SUFFERING, I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING UNSEEMLY.
WHY DID I EAT THOSE CREAM PUFFS
YOU GUYS ARE DIFFER-ENT!

YOU'RE FRIENDS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE NOT STRANGERS.
IF WE'RE FRIENDS I'D PREFER TO BE TREATED BETTER THAN A STRANGER
ME, TOO
WHAT?
REALLY??
IT SCARED ME
YEAH.
IT SCARED ME
BUT THE GUYS NEXT DOOR DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOUT LIKE THAT...
RIGHT?
THOUGH I WAS SPYING ON THEM...
MAYBE I'LL SING ONE OF THE SPECIAL SONGS I'VE BEEN SAVING.
I'LL MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL BY SINGING A CAPELLA!
SOMEONE SHOUTED AT YOU GUYS?
LAME.

* BUDDHIST CHANT
OKAY, PUT IN "HELLO, BABY" NEXT!
AFTER THAT IS "KINTARO'S GREAT ADVENTURE"!
THE ROOM NEXT DOOR

UGH...
MY HEAD HURTS...
I FORGOT KARAOKE LIQUOR GIVES ME HANG-OVERS...
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO WORK.
I'M GOING TO QUIT DRINKING FOR A WHILE!
AW, SHIT. THIS SUCKS...
MAYUMI-SAN.
SEE YOU LATER!

DAMN, YOU GUYS ARE ANNOYING!
WHAT
OH.
ニートかぞく
NO WORK OR SCHOOL
IT'S SPRING.

LET'S LOOK AT THE FLOWERS ALL AFTERNOON AND NIGHT!
I'LL BUY SOME FISH AND LIQUOR
ALL RIGHT!!
MAYUMI-SAN MADE A SWIFT AND EASY RECOVERY.

I KNOW WE'RE MEANT TO RELAX, BUT DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH AND BOTHER PEOPLE

SHUT UP. THIS IS WHAT'S WRONG WITH KIDS WHO'VE NEVER BEEN WITH A WOMAN.

YOU'RE ALREADY ACTING TOO RELAXED

NOW, NOW BEFORE WE BEGIN

THIS PLACE IS NICE. THANKS FOR FINDING US A PLACE, SHIRO-KUN.

WOW, THIS LOOKS DELICIOUS.

IT WAS FUN 楽しかった

NO, THANK YOU!

ALCOHOL! BREAK OUT THE ALCOHOL!

CHEERS TO SPRING!

第 2 話

OH!
SAKUMA
THERE YOU ARE. LONG TIME, NO SEE
OH, THAT'S...
HUH? WHAT'S IN THIS BOX?
SORRY I'M LATE.
IT'S OKAY. WE JUST STARTED.
YOU JUST STARTED AND THIS IS ALREADY HAPPENING?
HUH?
YEAH...
I SEE THE WITCH HASN'T CHANGED...
WITCH?!

卒業&合格
おめでとう!!
YOU'RE LATE, SHIT-HEAD.
SA-KUMA-KUN, HERE...
SIT. UP.
YOU LIKE CHIRASHI-ZUSHI, RIGHT?
I HELPED MAKE IT.
I...
THANK YOU!
サプライズ! SUR-PRISE!
MAYU-CHAN AND SAYAKA-CHAN DESIGNED THE LETTERS AND DECORATIONS.
WHAT?!

I-I JUST HAD NOTHING ELSE TO DO.
YOU'RE SO DISHONEST.
YOU SAID HE DID A GOOD JOB.
HEY... DON'T LIE ABOUT THAT.
OH, THE BOX LID!
I'D BETTER SHOW HIM THAT, TOO.
MY MISTAKE
THANK
IT'S NOT CLEAR WHO THIS IS MEANT FOR. OTHERWISE.
THUNK
SAKUMA-KUN
佐久間くん
I'M SO GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL TO YOU.
卒業&合格

TEXT: CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION AND ADMISSION

BY THE WAY, THIS ONE'S ACTUALLY A LIE.
USA-KUN'S BEEN GIVING YOU A LOT OF ADVICE, RIGHT?
I WORKED REALLY HARD ON EDITING THE PHOTO.
I TRIED TO CAPTURE THE PASSIONATE BURN OF MALE FRIENDSHIP.
I'M THE ONLY ONE BURNING!
LOOKS LIKE BURNING SAKUMA IS A THING NOW
AS NURTURING AS EVER...
"IT'S WHISPER
WHAT?
NOTHING
BUT... YOU REALLY DID DO A GOOD JOB.
HEY.
YOU ACTUALLY PASSED WITH THAT SCREWED UP FACE.
MY MISTAKE. I MEANT STERN FACE.
I BET A LOT OF PEOPLE GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT SAKUMA-KUN BASED ON HIS APPEARANCE
YOU SEEM LIKE A LONER.
"BUT HE'S A GOOD KID"
DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS GOING TO NORTH HIGH?
I DON'T KNOW THAT WE'RE FRIENDS...
...BUT THERE'S A REALLY ANNOYING KID WHO GOES THERE.
SHE'S A GIRL, THOUGH.

YOU CAN ASK THIS PRO FOR ADVICE IF YOU DO BECOME A LONER.

YOU THINK SO?

BUT THIRD-YEARS TAKE LIBERAL ARTS COURSES, SO MAYBE YOU'LL MEET SOME-ONE YOU GET ALONG WITH

LET'S EAT!

OKAY, OKAY

FLÜME

GRIND

GRIND

RBALLY? I GUESS I'M TOO LATE, THEN.

YOUR BRAIN SEEMS A LITTLE STIFF. LET ME WORK OUT THE TENSION FOR YOU.

OW!

GRIND

GRIND

THAT SERI-OUSLY HURTS.

SORRY, BUT NO.

IS SHE PERHAPS A VIOLENT CHILDHOOD FRIEND?

THOSE WORDS SMELL LIKE LOST YOUTH.

RIT-CHAN, DO YOU WANT SOME?

ACTU-ALLY...

I'LL SHARE MY CHI-RASHI-ZUSHI.

DO YOU WANT MINE? I HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT.
I GOT IT WHEN SU-MIKO-SAN WAS HAND-ING THEM OUT.
I'D RATHER HAVE SOME INARI.
YOU DO LIKE INARI.
BUT THERE AREN'T ANY LEFT.
THANKS.
BE-FORE...
WHAT?
WELL...
...SHE NEVER WOULD'VE EATEN IT.

DON'T PUT NON-SENSE LIKE THAT IN MY MOUTH!
DON'T PRETEND YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, YOU MASTER OF FANTASY
YOU STUFFED YOUR WHOLE MOUTH WITH MY INARI. WAS IT REALLY THAT GOOD?
YOUR FANTASIES ARE WAY WORSE THAN MINE!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING. WHEN YOU LOOKED AT THAT INARI, YOU THOUGHT, "THAT SEASONED FISH KIND OF LOOKS LIKE A PINK BUTT SITTING ON THAT INARI, HEH HEH HEH."
IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S A CHERRY BUTT WITH A SHORT INARI, BUT THAT'S ALL YOU.
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
USA-SENPAI...
I'LL GO BUY SOME.
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
MAYUMI-CHAN, YOU'RE TOO DRUNK!
HAVE SOME... OH, WE'RE OUT OF TEA.

YOU'RE STILL GOING FOR KAWAI-SENPAI, AREN'T YOU?
CLANG
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
SHE SEEMS QUIET, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY FRIGHTENING.
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT HER? I DON'T GET IT.
SHE'S UN-FRIENDLY, TOO.
IT DOESN'T MATTER
I KNOW WHAT MAKES HER GREAT.
AHEM
I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
I'M SURE WE'LL SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER AT THE SAME SCHOOL!
I'LL HELP YOU AS BEST I CAN!
WHAT?
JUDGING BY TODAY...
LOOSE WOMEN?
THOSE LOOSE WOMEN ARE ALWAYS GETTING IN YOUR WAY, RIGHT?

TOO ABSORBED IN READING TO NOTICE
LET'S TAKE RIT-CHAN HOME WHILE THEY'RE GONE!
THOSE GUYS ARE TAKING A WHILE.
BY HORSE.
YOU MEAN ME?! ALL RIGHT! NEIGH!
I'M JUST TEASING HIM FOR BEING A VIRGIN LIKE I ALWAYS DO,
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S COMING BACK TO BITE ME.
MAYUMI-SAN, YOU'RE TOO DES-PERATE.
SHUT UP!
I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK ON TEASING HIM, TOO.
THAT'S YOU HOLDING BACK?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE AN OLD MAID WHO'S JEALOUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

I'M JUST...
I KNOW I'M JUST...
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO QUICK TO RUN TO CHARMY-SAN.
SHE ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT I'M THINKING AND CUDDLES UP TO ME.
SADNESS, PAIN, JEALOUSY...
SHOULDN'T YOU STAY AWAY FROM HER FOR THAT LAST ONE?
IN WHAT WAY?
YOU'RE NICE, MAYUMI-SAN.
I'M JUST A MEAN AND UNPLEASANT WOMAN!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EXAMPLES RIGHT NOW?
I'LL DO MY BEST TO FIND THE KINDNESS IN YOU, MAYUMI-SAN!
IN THAT CASE, MAYUMI-CHAN...
I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS OUT ON HIM!
DAMN IT! THIS IS USA'S FAULT!

WOULD YOU RATHER SHE REJECT USA-KUN,
SO YOU CAN WATCH THEIR RELATIONSHIP FALL APART?
...
BUT...
BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT USA HERE!
HE'D NEVER GIVE UP!
NY, NY
IT'S NOT GOOD TO PROJECT YOUR OWN DREAMS ONTO OTHERS.
WHAT?
WELL... THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.
WHY DON'T YOU KINDLY WATCH OVER THEM?
NO WAY!
THANKS TO RIT-CHAN'S TROUBLESOME POINT OF VIEW, THINGS ARE STAGNANT NOW.
BUT IF SHE CHANGES HER WAY OF THINKING,
THINGS MIGHT GO WELL ENOUGH THAT THEY'LL START FLIRTING WITH EACH OTHER, AND I CAN'T STAND THE IDEA.
???
YOU THINK SO?
WE'RE BACK.

BOTTLE: HUSSY

阿婆擦れ
SO THAT'S HOW YOU WRITE "HUSSY."
DOES THIS CHARACTER MEAN HAG...?!
THAT BOTHERS YOU?!
I WROTE THE DRUNKS' NAMES ON THEIRS,
SO THEY WOULDN'T GET IT CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S.
?

BOTTLE: WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

BOTTLE: MONSTER WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

YOU'RE SO RECKLESS.
LET ME HANDLE THIS AND GO!
BUT I'M FINALLY GETTING CLOSER TO SENPAI.
THIS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR NOW.
DON'T RUSH.
...
MAYBE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO CHANGE HIS POINT OF VIEW...

...IS USA-KUN.
3-4
RIT-CHAN!
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN THIS CLASS, SO I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE A LONER.
WHOA
I'M SO GLAD!
MAE-MURA-SAN?!
I PROMISE NOT TO BOTHER YOU TOO MUCH.
AHAHA
あはは。
LET'S HAVE FUN TO-GETHER.

...
OKAY.
YEAH!
I NEED TO GO SEE THE TEACHER.
ARE YOU GOING HOME WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?
HE'S NOT—
SEE YOU TOMORROW
SEE YOU...
...TOMORROW.
SENPAI!
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?
THAT CLASS...
YEAH?

SHOVE
YOUR FIRST NON-LONER EXPERIENCE FINALLY BEGINS IN YOUR THIRD YEAR!
MAE-MURA-SAN'S IN IT, TOO.
SHE CAME TO SAY HI.
I'M KIDDING
THAT'S GREAT!
I FEEL ANXIOUS, THOUGH.
WE DON'T GET ALONG
OH, RIGHT.
GIGGLE
I'LL
TALK TO YOU.
I MAY NOT BE VERY DEPEND-ABLE, THOUGH.
YEAH.
YEAH?!
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW YOU'RE KEEP-ING A COMFORT-ABLE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU, RIGHT?
IF ANYTHING COMES UP, I'LL HELP YOU THINK OF SOLUTIONS
YOU CAN TALK TO ME.

PFAH!
HE'S COMING ALONG WELL
DON'T WORRY ABOUT SAKUMA-KUN, BUT COULD YOU SEND THIS TO HIS CLASS?
SAYAKA-SAN GAVE IT TO ME.
IT'S A CAVEMAN VERSION OF THE SAKUMA ROAST.
HUH? WHAT...
ANYWAY, I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU.
RRING
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT THINGS TO MOVE FORWARD
SAYAKA-SAN'S TOO GOOD AT EDITING PHOTOS!
PFFFT
HE'S... HE'S REALLY WELL-DONE...
...BUT SEN-PAI HAS STARTED
LETTING ME SEE LOTS OF THESE KINDS OF EXPRES-SIONS UP CLOSE.
I WONDER WHY SAKUMA LOOKS SO HAPPY
AND I DON'T WANT TO RUIN THAT.
PFFFT

MAE-MURA.
FROM UP CLOSE,
NATUR-ALLY,
SOME-ONE FOR-GOT THIS. ISN'T IT YOURS?
YOU'RE RIGHT. THANKS.
AND SLOW-LY...
YEAH.
YOU KNOW RIT-CHAN?
YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH KAWAI-SAN, HUH?
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS OUR FIRST YEAR.

OH...
RIT-CHAN'S SHY.
SHE'S A LITTLE DIFFER-ENT, BUT SHE'S A NICE GIRL.
REALLY?
LATER, THEN.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER TALK LIKE THAT.
I WAS SUR-PRISED TOO
WE'VE NEVER SPOKEN, THOUGH.
YES.

MAYBE I'LL TRY TALKING TO HER SOME-TIME.
SLOWLY.

SHIRO-SAN AND ME 18

SHIRO-SAN CAUGHT A COLD AFTER OUR FLOWER VIEWING.
COUGH COUGH
ARE YOU OKAY?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU HELD OUR SPOT FOR SO LONG?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I WASHED MY COSTUME OUTSIDE...
WE DON'T NEED TO SEE IT!
IT'S JUST A COUGH NOW. I WAS SO BORED FROM RESTING ALL THE TIME.
OH, RIGHT! AS LONG AS I'M SICK, LET'S PLAY DOCTOR.
PLAY DOC-TOR?
SCALPEL!
REACH
THAT KIND OF DOC-TOR?

HEY, SHIRO
MAYUMI-CHAN, GO CHECK ON HIM.
IS SHIRO-KUN WELL ENOUGH TO EAT DINNER WITH US?
Y-YES, SIR!
WHAT?! TSK... WE HAVE TO DO A BLOOD TRANS-FUSION!
SWEAT!
PI
SWITCH
UGH.
DOCTOR! HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE DROPPING!
SWITCH
SWITCH
UGH...
UGHH...
DOC-TOR, HE WON'T STOP BLEED-ING!
HE'S PLAYING THE DOC-TOR AND THE PA-TIENT?
TSK! HE NEEDS A CAMPAIGN INJEC-TION!

カタ CLACK
カタ CLACK
カタ CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
ピー
BEEP
カタ CLACK
...!
BWOOSH
BINGO!
CHAPTER 49

WHISTLE
ヒュー♪
AAAH
ハズカシイ
USA-KUN, YOU'RE BACK?!
YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING!
SORRY FOR RUINING YOUR COOL MOMENT.
OH.

SA-KUMA-KUN.
HEY!
I CAME TO SHARE SOME OF MY GRAND-MOTHER'S MUG-WORT MOCHI WITH YOU.
WANTON?
THOSE WANTON LADIES ALWAYS EAT EVERYTHING, SO I'M GIVING YOU YOUR SHARE FIRST.
SHIRO-SAN, YOU'RE A REALLY FAST TYPIST!
HUH?
OH... YEAH, I GUESS.
YOU WERE LIKE A SUPER HACKER
BREAKING THROUGH SOME REALLY TOUGH SECURITY!

HE'S USING YOU FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES
IT WAS THE "BINGO," BUT I THINK YOU'D BETTER STOP.
SHIVER
PANT
SHIVER
PANT
SO AMAZING
THE CLACKITY-CLACKITY-CLACK IS SO COOL
PANT
PANT
EMBARRASSMENT
SHIVER
THANKS FOR LETTING ME STAY FOR DINNER.
I INVITED YOU. HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE.
YOU LOOK GOOD IN YOUR NORTH HIGH UNIFORM.
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO YOUR NEW SCHOOL ALREADY?

IT'S TOO BAD, THOUGH. EVEN PROFESSIONAL LONER RIT-CHAN HAS GRADUATED FROM BEING A LONER.
TWITCH
RIGHT?
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
NO.
ALL ALONE, HUH.
BUT IT'S THAT GIRL, RIGHT? WILL YOU BE OKAY?
THE ONE YOU DON'T GET ALONG WITH
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US IS MORE COMFORTABLE NOW...
BESIDES, MAEMURA-SAN SEEMS PRETTY BUSY WITH HER STUDIES.
SO THINGS ARE GOING WELL BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO BE OVERLY-DEPENDENT ON HER FRIENDS.
BUT SOMETIMES YOU TALK ABOUT BOOKS, RIGHT?
NOD
THAT'S GREAT!
YEAH.

...HAS BEEN TELLING ME ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.
SPRING IS A GOOD SEASON FOR NEW RELATIONSHIPS.
LATELY, SENPAI...
SILENCE
MAYBE I'LL FIND A NEW CLUB.
IT WAS A LONG ROAD
THAT MEANS RELATIONSHIPS ARE GOING TO END.
I'M GOING TO SKIN YOU.
I KNOW. GIVING THEM FALSE HOPE WHEN YOU WON'T SEE THINGS THROUGH TO THE END IS SO MEAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THE NEW GRADUATE RECENTLY ASSIGNED TO MY DEPARTMENT
HMPH
NO!
ISN'T THAT A CRIME?
NO WONDER SHE'S IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD
WON'T STOP TELLING ME I'M SO WONDERFUL AND HIS TYPE.
SHRIEK
BUT THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL LAST THAT LONG
YOU'RE RIGHT
IT WOULDN'T BOTHER YOU IF WE WERE 59 AND 52

I'M IGNORING HIM, THOUGH.
WORKPLACE RELATIONSHIPS ARE SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS.
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO DATE SOMEONE WHO CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM YOU?
I DON'T SEE HIM AS A MAN. HE'S LIKE A DOG.
HE LOOKS KIND OF LIKE USA.
THAT USA HAS POOR TASTE
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN OLDER WOMAN, GUYS LIKE USA ARE TOO USELESS TO BE CONSIDERED.
RIGHT, RIT-CHAN?
WHAT?
HEY...
OLD HAGS... OLDER PEOPLE JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I THINK GIRLS WOULD LOVE USA-KUN.
SOME GIRL IN MY CLASS SAID HE WAS ATTRACTIVE!
WHAT
WHAT?!
LIAR!
IT'S TRUE.

SHE SAID HE SOUNDED REALLY NICE WHEN I TOLD HER ABOUT HIM.
OH, I GET IT
SHE'S JUST INTERESTED BECAUSE YOU TALKED HIM UP.
I DIDN'T TALK HIM UP!
AND SAYING THAT MAKES HIM POPULAR IS AN EXAGGERATION.
IF HE REALLY IS ENTERING HIS PRIME, I'LL CRUSH IT IMMEDIATELY
WHAT ARE YOU, A MONSTER?

USA-KUN DOES SEEM LIKE HE'D BE POPULAR WITH YOUNGER GIRLS.
HE'S A KIND AND CUTE OLDER MAN.
OR SOMETHING
YOU...
YOU THINK SO?
YOU HEARD HIM, RIT-CHAN! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BA-DUMP

THAT'S GREAT.
REALLY?
SHE SEEMED HAPPY TO CONGRATULATE ME...
BY THE WAY, SHIRO-SAN...
...WHERE DID YOU GET THAT LAPTOP?
I SHOULD CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
SHIRO-KUN, YOU TOOK OUT YOUR LAPTOP?
YEAH.
IT'S MINE.
WHAT? REALLY?
...

I THOUGHT IT WOULD EXPLODE IF YOU TURNED IT ON.
THE NEWS SAID YOU COULDN'T USE IT BECAUSE IT WASN'T GOING TO BE SUPPORTED ANYMORE
THAT'S SADISTIC
IT DOESN'T CONNECT TO THE INTERNET, THOUGH.
REALLY THAT'S GOOD.
IT'S AN OLD MODEL, AND IT WAS JUST SITTING THERE.
I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED, BUT IT WORKED.

WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE THRILLING CHOICES?
I USE IT NORMALLY. I WRITE... BOOKS.
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A LAPTOP? PINCH THINGS? DANGLE THINGS?

OH! THE TIME WE MADE UP THAT STORY.
I HEARD ABOUT THAT, TOO.
THAT WAS A FUN WAY TO PASS THE TIME.
OH, RIGHT
SHIRO-SAN... YOU SAID THE SAME THING LAST YEAR...
NO... I THOUGHT I FELT LIKE WRITING SO I WAS EXERCISING MY FINGERS.
YOU WERE WRITING A BOOK?!

"THE ADVENTURES OF HERO USA."
WHAT?
LET'S DO IT AGAIN TO STIMULATE THE CREATIVE JUICES OF AN AUTHOR (LOL).
THE VIRGIN VILLAGE WAS KNOWN FOR PRODUCING CHERRIES.
DON'T ADD MORE UNNECESSARY BACKSTORY!
THE END
完
HERO USA WAS BORN IN A VIRGIN VILLAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE COUNTRY AND DIED WITHOUT ONCE LEAVING HIS VILLAGE.
AT LEAST GO ON AN ADVENTURE!
ONE DAY SAGE RITSU SUMMONED HERO USA.
USA THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, "PERHAPS I SHOULD BECOME A WISE MAN AS WELL BEFORE I LEAVE."
JUST HURRY UP AND GO.

SAGE RITSU WAS UN-FRIENDLY AND SILENT.
SHE WAS A LONER FREAK ONLY INTERESTED IN BOOKS.
WHA... MAYUMI-SAN!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID NOT TO INCLUDE ANY WEIRD BACK-STORIES
EVEN IF IT'S TRUE,
YOU CAN'T JUST SAY SHE'S NOT THE LEAST BIT FRIENDLY!
BECAUSE THE COMPLETELY UNFRIENDLY SAGE RITSU WAS A SILENT FREAK.
SHE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH HERO USA.
BUT SHE SUMMONED HIM...
THE WORDS SHE CONVEYED TO HIM THROUGH A TELE-PHONE GAME USING THE VILLAGERS BE-CAUSE SHE DIDN'T WISH TO SPEAK WITH HIM WERE,
"SOMETHING UNFORTUNATE WILL OCCUR."
SUMIKO-SAN, YOUR TURN.
MY, HOW RECKLESS

THAT WAS DIRECT!
HERO USA, WHO WAS DESPISED BY SAGE RITSU,
DECIDED TO GATHER INFORMATION HIMSELF.
HE ARRIVED AT THE LARGEST BAR IN THE VILLAGE.
Bar SUMIKO
THAT'S QUITE AN EXTENSIVE BUSINESS YOU'VE GOT THERE.
SIGN: VIRGIN VILLAGE BRANCH: KAWAII KINGDOM'S TOP-SELLING CHAIN!
OH, REALLY?
HE'S GOING TO MEET SOME COMPANIONS AT THE BAR, RIGHT?
IN THAT CASE, THERE HE ENCOUNTERED...
OH, SUMIKO-SAN
...MINSTREL MAYUMI, KNOWN FOR HER CLEAR SINGING VOICE,
SAKUMA-KUN, YOU'RE NEXT.
WHAT?!
JEEZ
AND MAGICIAN SAYAKA, FAMOUS FOR HER GREAT MAGICAL TALENT.
A STORY ABOUT THESE TWO?
WITHOUT ADDING TOO MUCH MORE...

YOU KNOW, TEN YEARS AGO THE KING CONVINCED ME TO SLEEP WITH HIM. I AND...
UPON CLOSER INSPECTION, HE SAW THE REPEATEDLY REJECTED MINSTREL HAD RUINED HER VOICE DRINKING AND WAS CLINGING TO HER GLORIOUS PAST.
THIS IS ONE BRAVE STORY COMING FROM SAKUMA...
AND THE EVIL MAGICIAN HAD BECOME UNABLE TO USE HER CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FACE MAGIC.
USA-KUN, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CLUNK
...WITH THE "TERIYAKI SAKUMA" THEY HAD ORDERED.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A SERVANT ARRIVED...
OH, MY MINOR ROLES!
THE TWO OF THEM IMPLORED HERO USA FOR HELP.
THE REASON I CAN'T USE MY MAGIC MUST BE BECAUSE OF A DEMON KING'S CURSE.
AND MY VOICE.
I THOUGHT YOU RUINED YOUR VOICE DRINKING.
FROM UP CLOSE, YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THE MAGICIAN'S BLURRING, SO LET'S KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE.

THUD
CRASH
SLAM
AND ASKED HIS FATHER, THE VILLAGE CHIEF, ABOUT THE DEMON KING'S CURSE.
HERO USA FLED THE SCENE
SCRATCH
TRIUMPH
WHACK
YELL
SARUMA TREADED OFF BECAUSE HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS OWN BRAVE STORY
UH-OH.
SHE'S MAD. SHE'S MAD.
HMPH
...
HIS FATHER TOLD HIM THIS.
"I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING AT YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY NEXT WEEK."
SENPAI, SORRY.
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING. CAN YOU TAKE IT FROM HERE?
BUT MAYBE THIS ISN'T ALL A BAD EXCHANGE.
WOW, IT'S JUST LIKE AN RPG!
"I'VE INVITED THE VILLAGERS AS WELL."
"IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO HEAR, BUT I WANT YOU TO LISTEN CAREFULLY."
THEN, ON THE DAY OF HIS BIRTHDAY PARTY...

...NOT A SINGLE PERSON CAME.
THAT'S ROUGH!
"THEY MUST HAVE SOME REASON FOR BEING LATE."
WHILE GAZING AT THE STONE-COLD FOOD, HE TRIED TO CONVINCE HIMSELF OF THAT.
"MAYBE I'LL RE-HEAT THE SOUP... I'M SURE THEY'LL BE HERE SOON."
AS THOUGH MOCKING HERO USA, THE CLOCK TICKED HEARTLESSLY...
TICK
TOCK
SEN-PAI, I'M SORRY.

COME ON, RIT-CHAN.
JUST LISTENING TO YOU IS HURTING ME. LET'S SWITCH.
THE NEXT DAY...
THE NEXT DAY?!
...HE DISCOVERED THE VILLAGERS HAD A PERFECTLY GOOD REASON
FOR NOT ATTENDING HIS BIRTHDAY PARTY.
SIGN: CONGRATULATIONS!! FROM EVERYONE IN VIRGIN VILLAGE
HAPPY BIRTH DAY
I'M DITCHING THIS VILLAGE EVEN IF IT'S NOT TO GO ON AN ADVENTURE!
THAT DAY WAS ALSO THE BIRTH DAY OF A VERY HANDSOME MAN FROM A NEARBY TOWN.
USA REALIZED THE DEMON KING WAS INSIDE HIMSELF...
THIS STORY DOESN'T NEED THAT KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH!

THE END
完
POOR USA-SEN-PAI...!
THANKS, SAKUMA! BUT COULD YOU NOT MAKE IT SOUND SO DEPRESSINGLY REAL?
IT'S OVER?!
"HERO" WAS JUST YOUR SURNAME
WELL, SHIRO? I BET YOU HAVE SOME GOOD IDEAS NOW
YEAH! THANKS, MAYUMI-SAN! YOU'RE SO NICE!
WELL, THAT'S DISAP-POINT-ING!
YOU CAN READ IT WHEN IT'S FINISHED!
SURE, IN ABOUT TEN YEARS?
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY I'LL STILL BE HERE IN TEN YEARS?
WHUD
THANKS FOR LETTING ME STAY
USA-SENPAI, SEE YOU AT SCHOOL!

HE'S JUST SURPRISINGLY FRIENDLY.
NO.
HE REALLY LIKES YOU.
...AND NICE.
AND A BUSY-BODY...
YOU'RE REALLY SOFT-HEARTED,
EVEN THE GIRL HE TOLD ABOUT YOU COULD TELL.
YOU'RE NOT A FREAKSHOW OR ANYTHING.
IS THAT...

ROMANTICALLY SPEAKING, I'M NOT SURE IF I SHOULD BE HAPPY...
BUT I GUESS...
?
AS USUAL, WE'RE NOT ON THE SAME PAGE.
..."GOOD?"
BUT I GUESS I'M "HAPPY."
?

I WAS JUST GETTING REVENGE...
?!
SENPAI, YOUR PROSE IS REALLY MEAN.

CHAPTER 50

IT'S PRETTY TOUGH.
CAN YOU REALLY TIE HIM UP?
I CAN.
STRETCH
I-I'LL TIE IT RIGHT THIS TIME!
YOU SAY THAT, BUT YOU FAILED PARTWAY THROUGH YESTER-DAY.
HERE WE GO.
RIGHT.

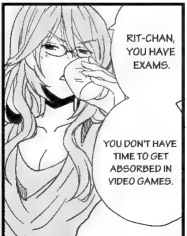
THE DEMON ESCAPED!
DEMON HUNT
MISS!
A RARE DEMON GOT AWAY.
THAT'S WHY I SAID WE SHOULD FIGHT IT NORMALLY.
THIS IS THE SAME KNOT YOU JUST MESSED UP. BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK
CAPTURE FAILED!
LEFT.
UP.
DOWN.
MASH A...
WHOOPS.
DEMON HUNTER IS INCREDIBLE
THAT'S ODD. MY TIMING WASN'T THAT OFF.
I THINK YOU SHOULD PRACTICE IN REAL-LIFE FIRST.
I'LL EVEN HELP YOU
THE TIMING FOR CAPTURING RARE DEMONS IS PRETTY STRICT.
BINDING TECHNIQUES ARE HIGH RISK, HIGH RETURN.
IF YOU FAIL YOU LOSE ITEMS AND MONEY
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SUCCEEDED AT TYING UP A NORMAL DEMON.
UGH...

IT WAS A COINCI-DENCE.
カチ CLICK.
カチ CLICK.
I'LL GET THE NEXT ONE.
TURN ぱっ UP.
B.
TURN ぱっ
TURN ぱっ RIGHT.
A.
SLAM
LEFT—
CAPTURE FAILED!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
THAT REALLY HURT, DIDN'T IT?
NOT REALLY.
BUT YOU'RE TEARING UP.
NOT REALLY.
USA-KUN, RIT-CHAN!

TIE ME
YOU'RE ALREADY A DEMON ON THE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE.
THERE'S SOMEONE RIGHT HERE WHO'S ABOUT TO TURN INTO A DEMON OUT OF JEALOUSY.
I'M NOT JEALOUS.

THANK YOU, NEWBIE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME!
IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE NEWBIE FLIRTING WITH HER TO FALL BACK ON, SHE'D HAVE SMASHED YOUR DSD BY NOW.
I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS SO CHILDISH OF THEM TO GET THAT EXCITED OVER A GAME.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH PLAYING ONCE IN A WHILE.
RIGHT?
I'M NOT ABSORBED...


RIT-CHAN, YOU HAVE EXAMS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET ABSORBED IN VIDEO GAMES.

I STUDY
ON MY OWN THOUGH
AND YOU'LL EASILY MAKE IT INTO YOUR FIRST-CHOICE COLLEGE. RIGHT?
YOU'RE AMAZING!
SHIT. SHE'S SO ANGRY. SHE CAN'T TALK RIGHT.
WHY
YOU SAY THAT?
WHY?
YOU'VE BEEN TALKING TO USA-KUN A LOT
I GUESS
WE TALK A LITTLE TO AND FROM SCHOOL
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
WE JUST GO WITH THE FLOW
SOME TIMES WE ASK EACH OTHER FOR ADVICE

ANDO?
ONE OF THOSE IS ANDO'S, SO SERIOUSLY, DON'T!
STRAIN
DESTROY
PLEASE STOP! I JUST BOUGHT THAT WITH THE MONEY I MADE WORKING!
FINE. I'LL DO IT FOR ONE OF THE NEW CAKES.
I REALLY WANT TO FORM A PARTY WITH SENPAI, SO COULD I BORROW IT A LITTLE LONGER?
ANDO
THE GIRL YOU MET AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL?
あ
OH, RIGHT
SHE DOES WHATEVER SHE WANTS.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH SOME TERRIBLE THINGS BECAUSE OF HER...
THE ONE WHO REALLY GOT INTO TAE-CHAN'S PRANKS.
OH! THAT FUN GIRL.
HOUSE-BOY CAFE OWNER TAE
TAE
DO YOU NOT LIKE HER?
...

!?
WHY?!
I DON'T MIND HER AT ALL!!
SHE'S REALLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND EASY TO UNDER-STAND.
SHE'S NICE AND EASY TO GET ALONG WITH.
RIGHT.
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'D REALLY GET ALONG.
RIGHT??
SHE SEEMS TO REALLY UNDERSTAND YOU, TOO.
WELL...
WE WERE IN THE SAME GROUP OUR FIRST YEAR.
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS NOW.
SO YOU'RE GOOD FRIENDS WHO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER.
WHAT?!

USA-KUN.
WHAT ARE YOU...
LOOK AT THE TIME.
GO TO SLEEP, CHILD-REN.
TELL ANDO-SAN I SAID THANKS.
IT WAS FUN.
OH. SHE DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY WITH ME ANYMORE.
OKAY...
GIVE IT BACK?
SA-YAKA?
I GUESS I SHOULD GIVE IT BACK.
SIGH
GOOD NIGHT.

RIT-CHAN'S SO FUNNY...
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT FEEL FREE TO RAIN ON THEIR PARADE.
IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN SHE CAN IMAGINE HIM BEING WITH HER.
HER REACTION WAS SO DIFFERENT.
I THOUGHT IT WAS WATER...
...BUT MAYBE IT WAS OIL.

YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER.
THANKS, RIT-CHAN!
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE ANSWER WAS.
RIT-CHAN, YOU'RE A SURPRISINGLY GOOD TEACHER.
YOU
YOU THINK SO?
YOU'RE SO SMART!
AND YOU DON'T EVEN ATTEND CRAM SCHOOL. IT'S AMAZING.
I SPEND ALL NIGHT AT CRAM SCHOOL.
I HAVE TOO MUCH HOME-WORK...
あ
SIGH
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL GET INTO MY FIRST-CHOICE SCHOOL.

RIT-CHAN.
WILL YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
I'LL READ THAT BOOK SENPAI REC-OMMENDED.
MAEMURA AND SENPAI...
...ARE STUDY-ING TO-GETHER?
THEY HAVE ENTRANCE EXAMS.
I'D JUST BOTHER THEM. I GUESS I'LL GO HOME...
SHOULD I... SAY SOME-THING?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

EYE CON-TACT...
OH.
SORRY.
GO HOME...
...WITHOUT ME.
CLOSE
OPEN
ROGER THAT.
STUDY HARD.

RIT-CHAN, THIS PROB-LEM...
OH, THAT ONE IS...
I
WILL
ん
USA-SENPAI!
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?
SHE'S NOT WITH YOU.
NO.
DO YOU WANT TO WALK TOGETHER?
YES!
CAN I STOP BY THE KAWAII COMPLEX?

OKAY...
BECAUSE WE NORMALLY WALK HOME TOGETHER!
BUT YOU'RE NOT DATING, RIGHT?
NOPE!

SHE TOLD ME, "SORRY, GO HOME WITHOUT ME."
WHY DO YOU SEEM SO HAPPY?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD I WORKED TO GET HERE...
I'M SO HAPPY.
BUT SENPAI—
SAKUMA!

YOU DUMMY!
YOU FORGOT YOUR MODERN JAPANESE HANDOUT...
SHIINA.
OH.
IT'S USA-SENPAI!
WHAT?

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
OH, SORRY!
I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU FROM SAKUMA, SO I JUST BLURTED IT OUT.
IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS IDIOT CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE.
SHUT UP! GO HOME!
NO WAY.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.
I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU, USA-SENPAI!
RIT-CHAN, JUST NOW...

SMIRK
WERE YOU MAKING LOVE CONTACT WITH YOUR YOUNG BOYFRIEND?
HE... ACCOM-MODATES ME.
REALLY? HE'S SO NICE.
BUT HE'S NOTHING LIKE YOU.
WE'RE FRIENDS!
HE'S NOT MY BOY-FRIEND!
HUH?
SMIRK
YEAH.
HE REALLY IS...

MAE-MURA.
AND KAWAI-SAN.
TAKA-HASHI-KUN.
YOU'RE WORKING ON AN ASSIGN-MENT?
YEAH.
THERE'S SO MUCH, AND IT'S SO HARD.
WE WERE THINKING ABOUT DOING OURS, TOO.
I'M HAVING RIT-CHAN HELP ME.
I HAD HER SOLVE A REALLY TOUGH PROBLEM.
NICE, ISN'T IT
I DIDN'T GET THIS PART, EITHER!
MAN, LUCKY YOU. WILL YOU TEACH ME, TOO?
WHAT

HEY, YOU CAN'T JUST...
SORRY.
NO...
REALLY? IT'D BE A HUGE HELP.
THANKS.
...
IT'S FINE.
WE APPRE-CIATE...
...THE HELP!

NO PROB-LEM...

MEAN-WHILE MA-YUMI-SAN...
ITCH
I GET THE FEELING I SHOULDN'T SNEEZE NOW.
THE STORIES ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU LIVE WITH ARE SO IN-TERESTING!
THERE'S THE GUY WHO'S GREAT AT TYING PEOPLE UP!
AND THE EVIL... THE EVIL... THE SINGLE LADY?
SHE'S NOT WRONG.
I WANT TO HEAR MORE!

YOU'RE NOT WITH USA-KUN? HOW UNUSUAL.

HEY, RIT-CHAN.

MAYBE JUST WRAPPING THE ROPE AROUND ME WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD BE BETTER?

I TIED MYSELF UP SO HE WOULDN'T BE WORRIED, BUT HE SAID THAT WASN'T THE POINT AND ARRESTED ME

A PATROLMAN TOLD ME NOT TO WALK AROUND THE GRADE SCHOOL WHEN THE STUDENTS ARE GETTING OUT.

IF ONLY YOU'D ARRIVED A LITTLE SOONER.

OH, MY.

I'M BACK.

SHE WANTED TO SEE SHIRO-SAN.

SHIINA-SAN.

STAGGER

?!!

YOUR HAIR'S A MESS. WHAT HAPPENED?

OH dear

WELCOME BACK, MAYU-MI-CHAN.

...SHII-NA?

USA-KUN JUST LEFT TO SEE HER OFF. IT'S TAKING HIM A WHILE.

CLATTER

U...

USA...

...GOT ME...

WOW.
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS THE POOR WALL AT KAWAI COMPLEX WHERE SAKUMA DREW HIS IDIOTIC GRAFFITI.
HE DREW THAT MARK AROUND HERE
SHUT UP.
SHE JUST STOPPED BY WHILE WE WERE BOTH ON OUR WAY HOME.
BESIDES, IT WAS FUN.
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME MEETING HIM, AND YOU FOLLOWED HIM ALL THE WAY HERE.
YOU'RE IMPUDENT.
URGH
BUT I WANTED TO SEE IT.
DON'T BE SO NICE TO HER.
YOU'LL INFLATE HER EGO.

PLEASE SEND IT TO ALL OF YOUR CLASSMATES
クラスメイトに
北欧希望♡
IF YOU SAY THAT, I'LL USE THE PHOTO WATANABE-SAN GAVE ME AS MY STAND-BY SCREEN.
THAT SNEAKY BITCH!
SHE EVEN SENT ME A STAMP I CAN USE WITH MY LINE APP.
ライブの自作スタンプもらったし
どうこう使うんだ
WHEN ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO USE THAT?!
THAT'S A DEMON HUNTER MONSTER...
YEAH!
YEAH! IT'S FUN.
USA-SENPAI, DO YOU LIKE IT, TOO?
I LOVE DEMON HUNTER.
SINCE I'M FINISHED WITH EXAMS, I'VE BEEN PLAYING A LOT LATELY.
SO HAVE I!
FINALLY BEAT THE GOLDEN CAT THE OTHER DAY!
THAT'S AMAZING! HE DIDN'T CAT YOU?

YOU THINK SUMIKO-SAN'S ALREADY MAKING DINNER?
NO, NOT YET.
WHOA
SORRY!
LOOK AT THE TIME!
.....
LET'S GO HUNTING TOGETHER SOME-TIME...
YOU ALL EAT TOGETHER?
THAT SOUNDS NICE AND HOMEY.
WHAT A CHEERFUL, FRIENDLY GIRL.
HOMEY, HUH?
WELL, I GUESS IT IS MY HOME.
I'M...
I TOLD YOU!
SHE MIGHT ACTUALLY GET ALONG WITH SENPAI.
SHE'S LIKE A MILDER VERSION OF CHINATSU-CHAN.
SAKUMA, MAKE SURE YOU WALK HER HOME.
DON'T "TSK" ME
TSK
TSK

SCREAM
キィィィ
THOUGH IT CAN BE PRETTY OUT OF THIS WORLD SOMETIMES.
EVEN IF USA DIDN'T MEAN IT, HE GOT ME!
USA (OR A NEW GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE HIM)...
...GOT ME (BY PUSHING ME AGAINST A WALL).
COULD YOU GIVE AN EXPLANATION THAT ACTUALLY EXPLAINS THINGS?
HE'S GOING TO STAB YOU SOMEDAY
いつかおさされますよ
I'VE BEEN DEFLECTING HIS ADVANCES TO KEEP HIM INTERESTED.
IT'S NOT MY THING AT ALL, BUT I WANT HIM TO KEEP FLIRTING WITH ME.
IS THAT THE THING I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT LATELY?!

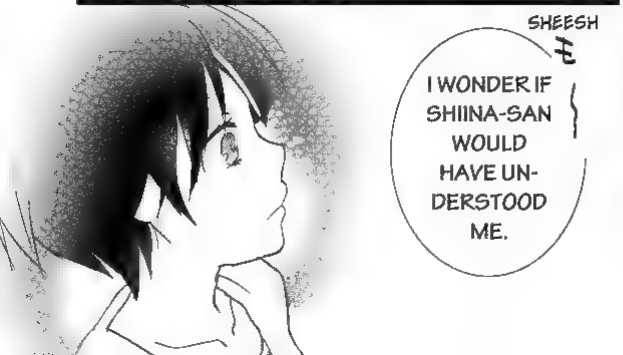
NISHI-KINO-SAN.
YOU THINK OF ME LIKE A DOG, DON'T YOU?
BUT, YOU KNOW...
...I'M A MAN.
……
ドギュン
BA-DURF
キャー♡
SHRIEK
WAY TO GO, USA-KUN.
USA-KUN LOOKS SO CONFI-DENT
……
STOP IMAGINING THE SITUA-TION WITH ME IN IT!
MAYUMI-SAN, YOU HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED ROMANCE FOR SO LONG YOUR SOUND EFFECT IS MESSED UP.
WHUD

IF SOMEONE ACTUALLY DID THAT TO ME, I'D BE REPULSED.
WHEN SOMEONE I MET AT A MIXER DID THAT TO ME, I GOT PISSED OFF AND KNEED HIM IN THE CROTCH.
THOSE GUYS ARE ALWAYS GETTING THE WRONG IDEA AND TRYING TO PAT YOUR HEAD.
AND THEY'RE INTO GIVING FACIALS.
+ A LOT OF THEM ARE NARCISSISTS

I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL. THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY HEART FLUTTER.
RIGHT, RIT-CHAN?
WHAT?

YEAH, BUT...
YOU'RE AT THE PERFECT AGE FOR ROMANCE
WHAT?
BUT YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.

IT'D BE SCARY IF A BOY I DIDN'T KNOW VERY WELL SUDDENLY APPROACHED ME LIKE THAT...
I'D BE REPULSED, TOO...


SHEESH
I WONDER IF SHIINA-SAN WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD ME.

SAKU-MA-KUN'S FRIEND!
WHO?
USA-KUN, IN YOUR OPINION,
DO YOU THINK SHIINA-SAN WOULD ENJOY BEING PUSHED AGAINST A WALL?
IT'S SUMIKO-SAN AND WATA-NABE-SAN
THEY BOTH WALK PAST KAWAI COM-PLEX ON THEIR WAY HOME.
SHE WANTED TO COME SAY HI.
I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU
NICE TO MEET YOU
REALLY?
BUT YOU SEEMED SO CLOSE.
NO, NO
I JUST MET HER TODAY.
THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS SAID USA-SENPAI IS REALLY NICE, TOO.
APPARENTLY SAKUMA'S TOLD HER A LOT ABOUT ME.

SHE WAS AMIABLE.
SHE WAS AN ENERGETIC, FUN GIRL.
SO THE OPPOSITE OF RIT-CHAN.
SHE'S A PERFECT MATCH FOR USA-KUN.
WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY PUSHING HER AGAINST A WALL SOMETIME?
YOU MIGHT END UP DATING.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SAYAKA-SAN?
GLANCE
PFFFT.
SH-SHE'S MAKING A WEIRD FACE...
HUH?
I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
BACK TO NORMAL.
OKAY! LET'S ASK SHIINA-SAN NEXT TIME SHE'S HERE.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULDN'T BE INTO IT...
SUMI-KO-SAN.
GOOD NIGHT...

THUMP
TO-MOR-ROW,
I WOULD LIKE CHICKEN CUTLETS FOR DINNER.
PFFFT
プッ
THIS IS MAKING ME LAUGH.
IN REAL-ITY
現実だと
WE'RE OFF.
YOU LOOK TIRED.
YAWN ふぁ…
I WAS PLAYING DEMON HUNTER.
I FORGOT TO ASK YESTER-DAY, BUT HOW DID YOUR STUDY SESSION GO?
WELL...
OH!

SHII-NA-SAN.
SORRY ABOUT YES-TERDAY.
GOOD MORN-ING.
I DIDN'T HAVE MORN-ING PRAC-TICE TODAY.
HAVE WE RUN INTO EACH OTHER IN THE MORNING BEFORE?
YOU'RE KAWAI-SENPAI, RIGHT?
I'M SHIINA. NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M KAWAI RITSU.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
WELL, I'VE GOTTA GO.
HEARD WHAT?
I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS.
STEP
SHIINA-SAN!

DON'T TELL ANYONE SENPAI AND I LIVE TOGETHER.

SENPAI WOULDN'T LIKE IT.

ROGER THAT.

KAWAI-SENPAI'S NOTHING LIKE WHAT I IMAGINED.

I'D LIKE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH HER SOMETIME!

SO COOL

I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT HOW SHE HIT SAKUMA WITH A BOOK.

DO YOU WANT TO WALK WITH US NOW, THEN?

NO, NO!

I DON'T WANT TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR MORNING DATE.

DATE...?!

HUH? YOU'RE NOT DATING?

I'VE SEEN YOU WALKING HOME TOGETHER, SO I THOUGHT YOU WERE.

IS THAT HOW IT SEEMS?

YOU'RE NOT DATING, HUH?

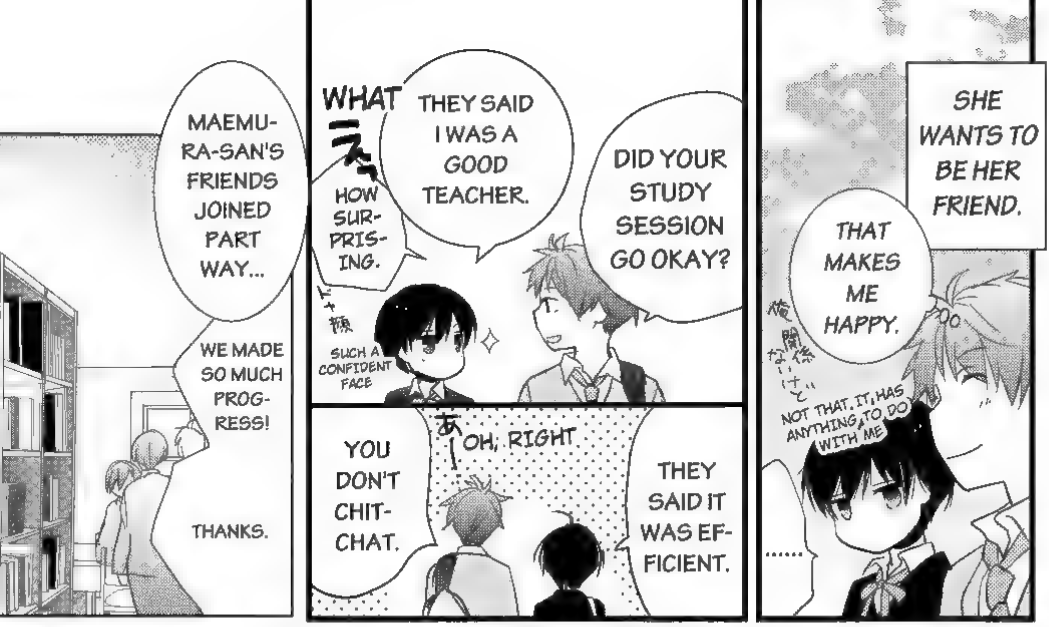
BUT I'LL PASS TODAY.

I HEARD KAWAI-SENPAI'S REALLY SHY.

I'M SURE IT WOULD BE TOUGH FOR HER TO SUDDENLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME.

I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS, THOUGH.

I'LL LET HER KNOW.
THANKS! BYE.
?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
.....
NO...
WHEW
SHE'S CHEERFUL AND ENERGETIC...
SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND!


MAEMURA-SAN'S FRIENDS JOINED PART WAY...
WE MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS!
THANKS.
WHAT
THEY SAID I WAS A GOOD TEACHER.
HOW SURPRISING.
SUCH A CONFIDENT FACE
DID YOUR STUDY SESSION GO OKAY?
YOU DON'T CHIT-CHAT.
あ！ OH, RIGHT.
THEY SAID IT WAS EFFICIENT.
SHE WANTS TO BE HER FRIEND.
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
NOT THAT IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME
.....

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID.
WE'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
YEAH.
RIGHT, TAKAHASHI?
LET US JOIN THE NEXT TIME YOU DO THIS!

NOD
OH,
BUT WHEN YOU HOLD YOUR STUDY SESSIONS...
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MIND, WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT?
REALLY?
WHY NOT INVITE THEM?
IT'S EASIER TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE IF YOU'RE HELPING THEM DO SOMETHING, LIKE STUDY.

YOU REALLY ARE A MASOCH-IST.
SENPAI TEXTED ME TO SAY SHE COULDN'T GO HOME WITH ME.
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?
I'VE GOT HAIR DOWN THERE!
YOUR RO-MANCE IS AS HAIR LESS AS EVER.
!?
IF I WERE YOU, I'D GO WITH THE OTHER ONE.
ROGER...
RECEIVED MESSAGE
< 受信
FROM: KAWAI RITSU SENPAI
TO: USA
今日 TODAY
HAVE A STUDY SESSION TODAY.
LOTS OF ASSIGNMENTS TO FINISH BEFORE GOLDEN WEEK
DON'T WAIT FOR ME.
OH.
BUT THAT'S NOT...
SHE LIKES DEMON HUNTER, SO WE HAVE STUFF TO TALK ABOUT.
SHE'S CHEERFUL AND NICE.
SHIINA?
YOU KNOW, THAT FIRST-YEAR YOU'VE BEEN TALK-ING TO LATELY...
SHE'S DEFI-NITELY...
OKAY. SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
I'M LEAVING.
SEN-PAI!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

WE DON'T REALLY GET ALONG, YOU KNOW?

BUT I WANT TO ACCOMMO-DATE YOU HOWEVER I CAN.

...A BETTER MATCH FOR USA.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THESE STUDY SES-SIONS, JUST LET ME KNOW.

YOU KNOW, ＋、＝

I WON'T KNOW UNLESS YOU TELL ME.

OF COURSE YOU DON'T.

NO.

WANNA GO TO THE BATHROOM?

WAIT HERE, THEN.

.....

I SHOULD TELL USA-KUN.

THANKS FOR WAITING

おまたせー

.....

ARE THEY...

図書室*

*SIGN: LIBRARY

...GOING HOME TO-GETHER?
KAWAI-SAN?
OH, YEAH! SENPAI!
LISTEN TO THIS.
THAT SUPER-RARE MONSTER THAT EVOLVES INTO A RED DRAGON?
WHAT
YEAH!
DEMON
DARTING DRAGON
YESTERDAY I FINALLY CAUGHT A DARTING DRAGON.

THERE'S A TRICK.
HE ALWAYS RUNS AWAY, SO YOU CAN'T EVEN BATTLE HIM.
THAT'S AMAZING! HOW DID YOU DO IT?!
LEAP
JUMP
JUMP
JUMP
AND JUMP!
THEN YOU IMMEDIATELY
LURE HIM INTO THE INNER COURTYARD OF THE MONSTER MANSION
AND CORNER HIM BY THE WALL.
HE'LL CROUCH FOR A MOMENT OUT OF FEAR.
I DON'T GET IT.
AND FINALLY, BOOM!
WHAT?
THEN YOU BE THE DARTING DRAGON.
OKAY, NOW CROUCH...
YES! RIGHT HERE.
DO THIS.
LIKE THIS.
AND THEN...

USA...
ドッ
THUD

SHE PUSHED HIM AGAINST A WALL.
HOW WAS THAT, SENPAI?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T KNOW? THEN LET'S DO IT AGAIN.
WAIT, SHIINA.
DON!!
THUD
YAAAH
STEP STEP STEP
RIT-CHAN, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING HOME TODAY...
?!
DOOM
BANG
WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU'RE MAKING A WEIRD FACE.
IT'S NOTHING.
PFFFT
SHE MAKES THOSE KINDS OF FACES, TOO.
I DON'T GET IT! AND IT'S TERRI-FYING!
JUMP
JUMP
JUMP
I TOLD YOU ALREADY!
IT'S LIKE THIS AND THEN THIS!

*GW ACTUALLY STANDS FOR GOLDEN WEEK.
GW* STANDS FOR
GATHERINGS (AROUND STUPID COUPLES) OF WATER BEETLES, RIGHT?
I THINK
WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT WATER BEETLES?
THEY'RE IN A DESPERATE FIGHT AGAINST CHANGES IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND INVASIVE SPECIES.
DON'T BRING THE RAPIDLY DECLINING POPULATION OF WATER BEETLES INTO THIS.
THAT'S NICE?
IT'S SO NICE OF YOU NOT TO THINK OF A MORE UNPLEASANT INSECT.
NONE OF US HAVE PLANS. I KNOW I DON'T...
IN THAT CASE,
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE GIRL WHO PUSHED YOU AGAINST A WALL ON A DATE?
PFFFT
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CURSE ANYONE THIS YEAR.
I HAVEN'T HAD PLANS FOR THE LONG BREAK FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW.
HRGH
THAT'S NOT A CURSE?

HRMPH
WHY DID RIT-CHAN...
WHY DID SENPAI...
...DO A SPIT-TAKE?
COUGH
COUGH
MMMPH

I'M GOING OUT AGAIN THIS YEAR.
HE'S PICKING ME UP AT THE STATION IN A CAR.
I MIGHT NOT COME BACK.
I HOPE HIS CAR IS FOLLOWED BY A LOCALIZED THUNDERSTORM.
IT'S SO NICE THAT YOU'RE WISHING A THUNDERSTORM ON THEM WHEN THEY'LL BE SAFE FROM LIGHTNING INSIDE A CAR.
THAT'S NICE?
I'M OFF.
RATTLE

RUSTLE
HEY, NABE-CHAN.
GIGGLE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
A FOCAL-SIZED THUNDER-STORM?!
FLASH
SPLISHHH

I HAVE SOME CURVES!

THE FLAT PLAINS OF YOUR BODY ARE SO BREEZY, THE INSECTS WOULD FLEE TO THE FOREST BEFORE YOU COULD SAY "NAUSICAA"!

WHAT'S SEXY ABOUT YOUR FLAT, FORMLESS BODY?

BUT I NEEDED TO MATCH MY SEXY CLOTHES.

APOLO-GIZE TO NAGOYA!

I DID MY BEST TO CURL MY HAIR LIKE THEY DO IN NAGOYA.

DON'T SCRUB LIKE YOU'RE WASHING GRIME OFF MY FACE.

IT HURTS

THICK MAKEUP THAT DOESN'T CONCEAL YOUR SHORTCOMINGS IS EVEN WORSE THAN GRIME!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF NABE-CHAN.

DON'T USE THAT WEIRD GREET-ING.

SAYAKA'S ← さやかの

TSUNEKO-SAN, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

YOU NEVER COME HOME.

YOU NEVER ANSWER MY MESSAGES EITHER.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

A FRIEND OF SAYA-KA-SAN,

AND A BOX FULL OF HER WEAK-NESSES.

I SAID SHE COULD STAY EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, SAYAKA-CHAN.
SINCE IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I WANTED TO SEE HER.
まぁまぁ
NOW, NOW
I SECRETLY CALLED KAWAI COMPLEX EARLIER.
SOR-RY...
URGH
I HAVE TO CANCEL MY PLANS BECAUSE OF YOU!
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO IF I WASN'T HERE?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. SAYAKA DOESN'T NEED TO BE HERE.
WHAT?
SHE CAN SLEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM!
WHAT?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS.
CALL YOUR BOYFRIEND.
WHAT?
.....
AND WHILE WE DO, WE'LL OPEN THIS BOX AND GO SIGHT-SEEING THROUGH THE DARK PAST OF WATANABE SAYAKA.
WE'LL TAKE TSUNEKO SIGHTSEE-ING AROUND THE AREA!

TSUNE-CHAN, YOU STARTED WORKING THIS SPRING?
HEH HEH
I GRADUATED AND BECAME A CIVIL SERVANT...
REALLY? THAT'S AMAZING!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ACTUALLY WORKING THERE?
YOU'RE SO MEAN. I DO MY BEST!
THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH YOUNG BLOOD AT THE VILLAGE OFFICE.
AND YOU'VE GOT YOUR UNCLE'S CONNECTIONS.
I HELP ROUND UP THE MONKEYS AND BOARS THAT COME DOWN INTO THE VILLAGE,
AND HELP REPAIR FENCES AROUND FARMS.
THE STUFF YOU USED TO PUT ME THROUGH IS REALLY HELPING WITH—
SLAP
SHUT UP.

SO THAT'S HOW THAT TRAGEDY OCCURRED.
TOLD ME I GOTTA LOOK NICE NOW THAT I'M AN ADULT.
ONE OF MY SENIORS WHO USED TO MAKE QUITE THE RUCKUS ON THE DANCE FLOOR WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER
EVERY-ONE I WORK WITH IS NICE, TOO.
GOOD GRIEF.
I WAS GOING TO GO SIGHT-SEEING.
BUT MY RIDE...
LET'S GO SIGHTSEE-ING IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

長良川温泉
NAGARAGAWA HOT SPRINGS
【泉質】SPRING QUALITY
SIMPLE COLD IRON MINERAL SPRING (NEUTRAL HYPOTONIC COLD MINERAL SPRING)
【効能】BENEFITS
EASES NERVE PAIN
FOR JOINTS
HEMORRHOI
RECOVERY
INCREASED

A THOUSAND YEN'S A LITTLE STEEP FOR STUDENTS ON THEIR WAY HOME.

IF ONLY IT WERE CORMORANT FISHING SEASON.

THERE ARE SOME HOT SPRINGS NEAR KAWAI COMPLEX.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THEM BEFORE.

SENPAI, HAVE YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE?

NO...

.....

?

YOU'RE EMBARRASSED ABOUT GETTING NAKED!

!

UM...

I'M NOT GONNA GO.

WHAT?

BUT...

OH, I GET IT!

I DON'T REALLY LIKE HOT SPRINGS.

WHY NOT?

BUT... WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE.

PLEASE DON'T DRAG ME INTO THIS.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

RIGHT, USA-KUN?

SEE?

IT'S OKAY! PEOPLE DON'T LOOK AS MUCH AS YOU THINK.

YOU'RE SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT YOUR BOOBIES AND TUMMY, RIGHT?

YOU'LL BE FINE IF YOU JUST TAKE IT ALL OFF!

TSUNEKO LACKS SENSITIVITY IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM YOU, MAYUMI-SAN.

IMPORTANT

7話. おもしろそうだから のっかる
GETTING INVOLVED BECAUSE IT SEEMS INTERESTING

THAT'S RIGHT, RIT-CHAN. OVERCOME YOUR SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.

WHAT?

IF A BATH EMBARRASSES YOU THIS MUCH,

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO DURING IMPORTANT MOMENTS?

I'M SO EMBARRASSED... はずかしい

DON'T LOOK AT ME... みないで…

MAKE SURE YOU WASH OFF BEFORE GETTING IN THE BATH, USA.

I'M GO-ING!

SHUT UP!

I'M JUST TEACHING YOU PROPER ETIQUETTE.

*SIGN: OUTDOOR BATH. WATCH YOUR STEP, PLEASE.

FLOAT
HE'S DEAD!
DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE.
OKAY!
スイマセン
SORRY
A MURDER MYSTERY IN THE STEAM
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
WE CAN HEAR YOU PRETTY WELL.
HEY!
DON'T LET YOUR HAIR TOUCH THE WATER
髪がつからないようにしましょう
OH, SORRY
あ、ごめんね

BA-DUMP
RIT-CHAN'S FINALLY HERE!
SEN-PAI...
IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL.
DON'T BE SHY.
IT'S JUST US GIRLS.
TAKE OFF HER TOWEL.
RIT-CHAN, YOURS ARE PRETTY BIG.
DON'T...
THEY'RE SO SOFT!
DON'T...
HEY!

NOTHING LIKE THE HOT SPRING SCENE FROM YOUR MALE FANTASIES IS HAPPENING OVER HERE!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSID-ERATION!

I PLAYED THE PART OF RIT-CHAN'S VOICE.

U-USA-KUN

ウ、ウサ佐くん

そろそろガイシャのひきあげをはじめないと

WE SHOULD 'GET THE VICTIM OUT OF THE WATER...

GURGLE

IF YOU DON'T BEHAVE YOURSELVES, I'LL MIX SOMETHING NON-TOXIC INTO YOUR FOOD.

WE'RE SORRY!

SERI-OUSLY? THAT'S SO CUTE, DAMN IT!

SHE WAS FIDGETING IN THE CHANG-ING ROOM, SAYING SHE'D COME OUT AFTER WE ALL LEFT.

RIT-CHAN SURE IS SHY.

THE HOT SPRINGS FELT NICE,
AND SUMIKO-SAN'S DINNER WAS DELICIOUS.
I'M SO HAPPY.
IS THERE ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO GO TOMORROW?
HM-MM.
I THINK THERE WAS SOMETHING...
IN THE AREA
DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS, NABE-CHAN?
YOUR HOMETOWN.
BY YOURSELF
YOU RUINED MY PLANS.
I WAS GONNA PARTY HARD OVER THE BREAK.
I HAVE TO LOOK FOR WORK NEXT YEAR.
I'M SURE I WON'T HAVE TIME.
OH, RIGHT.
IT'S ALMOST TIME.

?
NABE-CHAN, YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT.
YOU'RE TAKING OVER YOUR DAD'S COMPANY.
WHAT?!
SHE'LL BE A PRESIDENT...?!
IT'S A SMALL CONTRACTING BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.
I'M NOT WORKING THERE!
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN NAGOYA OR, IDEALLY, TOKYO.
YOU LIAR.
YOU PROMISED YOU'D COME HOME AFTER YOU GRADUATE.

I'M NOT GOING HOME.
YOU'RE LYING.
WHAT?!
I'M LISTENING.
LISTEN TO WHAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY!
YOU NEVER
I SAID I'M NOT GOING HOME!
LISTEN...
I REMEMBERED WHERE I WANTED TO GO.
YOU'RE LYING.
ANYWAY, I WANNA GO TO—
SLAP
OUCH
WHY'D YOU DO THAT
OH, RIGHT.

BY THE WAY, THE OTHER DAY...
THINGS WILL CHANGE.
THE SAME WAY...
...THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR
WHAT?
BUT DID YOU FEEL SOMEONE WATCHING YOU WHILE SHAMPOOING YOUR HAIR?
THIS MIGHT SCARE YOU,
THAT WAS...
YEAH.
YOU WERE READING THAT BOOK IN THE CHANGING ROOM.
YEAH.
YOU WENT IN THE BATH BY YOURSELF LATER.
.....
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT WAS USA.

IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THINGS WOULD NEVER CHANGE.
THINGS GOT QUIET FOR A SECOND SO I STARTED A NEW TOPIC
YOUR CONVERSATION'S TOO SLOPPY
I SAW SOMEWHERE IN A MAGAZINE I WANTED TO GO.
LET ME SEARCH
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
THE PLACE WITH THE HOUSEBOYS.
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH!
ANYWAY, TSUNE-CHAN, WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?
TAISHO ROMANTIC PHOTOS
HOUSEBOYS AND MISS MODERNS
YOU GET TO WEAR COSTUMES...
HUH?
HOUSEBOYS?
THIS IS IT.
KAWAJI HOUSE
GOLDEN WEEK EVENT
THEY'RE HOLDING AN EVENT!
HEY!

ISN'T THIS YOU, USA-KUN?!
DO YOU WORK HERE?
OR DID YOU JUST DRESS UP WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND FOR AN EVENT?
PRESERVING NOSTALGIC MEMORIES WITH SOMEONE IMPORTANT
大切な人との
大正恋愛写真
TAISHO ROMANTIC PHOTOS
YOU MAKE A GREAT COUPLE.

YOU'RE TOO BUSY WITH CUSTOMERS TO FIX IT YOURSELF? BUT...

ASK IF SHE CAN HANDLE SEVEN MORE PEOPLE.

HUH? YOU WANT ME TO COME BY MYSELF FIRST?

CAN YOU HANDLE SEVEN MORE? MAYBE THIS AFTERNOON? THAT'S GREAT.

NO, NO! I WANT TO RELAX.

YOU MUST BE BUSY IF KUROKAWA-SAN HAS A COLD AND CAN'T COME.

I'LL GO, BUT I'M NOT...

OWN-ER!

YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO USE SUCH A LARGE VER-SION OF THE PHOTO ON YOUR SITE!

A SIZING ERROR? FIX THIS IMME-DIATE—YOU WANT ME TO GO THERE TO FIX IT?!

WOW.

SAYAKA'S
←さやかの

USA-KUN, YOU'RE TOO NICE...

WEL-COME...

YOU LOOK GREAT.

NO, HE'S JUST A MAS-OCHIST.

I HEARD KUROKA-WA-SAN HAS A COLD.

THANKS FOR JUMPING IN, ANE-KOUJI-KUN.

I'LL HAVE THE HOSTING COMPANY FIX IT AFTER GOLDEN WEEK!

I DON'T KNOW THE WEB-SITE'S PASS-WORD.

I DIDN'T GET TO FIX THE PHOTO...

YEAH.

I'M NOT WOR-RIED ABOUT HIM, BUT IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE IF THE MASTER CAUGHT IT.

I HOPE IT'S NOT THE SPANISH FLU...

キング WW1

おわってたよね

WWI IS ALREADY OVER, HUH

THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

I'LL HELP OUT AROUND THE STORE.

WHAT ABOUT INTERACTING WITH CUSTOMERS?

HUH?

YOU...

COULD YOU WASH SOME DISHES?

PLEASE DON'T.

I'M SORRY

I ONLY HAVE FIVE SEATS AVAILABLE.

SHOULD I BRING SOME MORE CHAIRS?

SHOULD I PREPARE SOME KIND OF BACK-STORY?

NO.

NO WONDER YOU LOOK SO ROUGH AND WILD

YOU'RE FROM ANEKOU-JI-KUN'S VILLAGE?

THEY'RE GETTING ALONG.

HA HA HA NOT BAD

"TAISHO DEMOCRACY" SOUNDS LIKE "DARKNESS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE"

TRULY THIS IS THE DEMOCRACY OF THE TAISHO ERA!

WHAT...

I'D LIKE TO TASTE THE NAUGHTY GAMES THE PRIVILEGED CLASSES SECRETLY ENJOY!

I CAME TO THE CITY IN PURSUIT OF THAT LIBERTY!

WHAT?

KUROKAWA-SAN'S HOME SICK WITH A COLD...?!
I NEED TO GO CHECK ON HIM...! OWNER, WHAT'S HIS ADDRESS?
HE'S AT HIS PARENTS' HOUSE
彼 実家 だから ね?
HOPEFULLY ROMANTIC FEELINGS WILL DEVELOP
そしてあわよくば「ラブ」に進展
HIS CONDITION ISN'T THAT SERIOUS.
I TURNED DOWN MY FRIENDS BECAUSE KUROKAWA-SAN WORKS TODAY.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TABLES AVAILABLE EITHER.
THEN I'LL JUST GO...
WAIT!
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE.
YOU CAN SIT WITH US!
THAT'S OKAY! YOUR TABLE'S FOR FIVE ANYWAY.
I'LL HELP TAE-CHAN.
BUT...
SIT, SIT.

.....
ENJOY YOUR GIRL TALK.
HEY.
THAT'S USA-KUN'S GIRL-FRIEND!
WHAT?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT? IT'S YOUR LOVEY-DOVEY COUPLE PHOTO WITH USA-KUN.
THE PHOTO?
YOUR HAIR IS BLONDE
YOU LOOK COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN YOU DID IN THE PHOTO, SO I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU RIGHT AWAY.

THEY TOOK THAT PHOTO TO PROMOTE THE EVENT WHILE THEY WERE WORKING HERE.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
THANK YOU FOR THE EXPLANATION.
.....
NO PROBLEM.
ANNOYED
YOU SAID YOU'RE JUST FRIENDS, BUT YOU'LL DENY THAT WE'RE DATING.
REALLY?
COME TO THINK OF IT, USA-KUN SAID THE SAME THING YESTERDAY
ANNOYED

I KNOW YOU LIKE BOOKS,
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ABSORBING YOURSELF IN READING WHEN YOU'RE OUT WITH PEOPLE.
...
THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU MIGHT GET SICK OF YOU.
U-USA-KUN SAYS IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO READ...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ARE THEY FIGHTING?
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT USA-KUN.
REALLY? SO YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT, THEN?
HE'S SO NICE. I WOULD HATE IT.
RRRGH
NABE-CHAN, NABE-CHAN.
WHISPER

INTUITION OF DESTROY YOUTH SQUAD CAPTAIN

青ぶちニャル隊 隊長の意力→

CALM DOWN. LET'S CALM DOWN AND **TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.**

THE ATMOSPHERE'S GETTING PRETTY BAD.

ARE THOSE TWO RIVALS?

ツネコ 声デカイ

TSUNEKO, THEY CAN HEAR YOU

NO!

"GLUG GLUG"

BUT I SAID SOMETHING WEIRD AGAIN.

I PROMISED I WOULDN'T GET INVOLVED, SINCE IT JUST EXHAUSTS ME,

I'LL CALM DOWN AND CHANGE THE SUBJECT...

SO...

YES?!

SHE DIDN'T HEAR MY VOICE CRACK, DID SHE?

HER VOICE CRACKED...

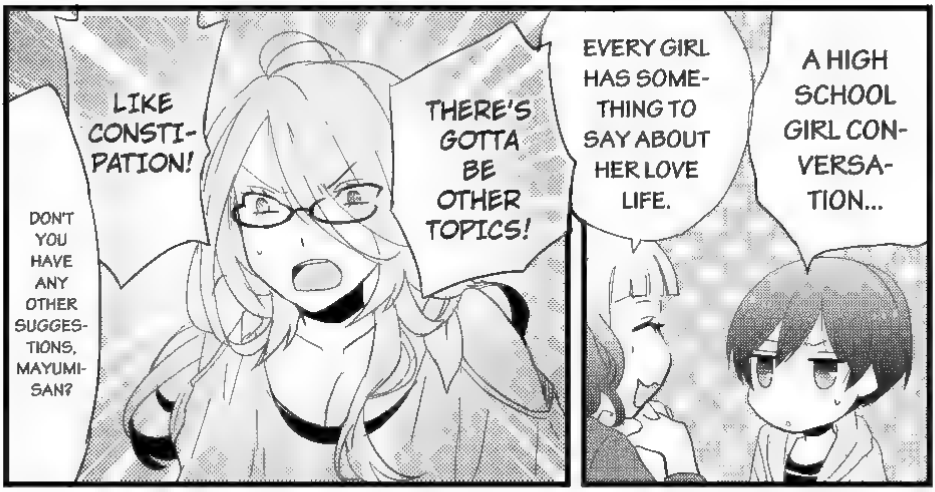
HER VOICE CRACKED.

HER VOICE CRACKED.

HER VOICE CRACKED.

ABOUT THE BOOK I BORROWED THE OTHER DAY...

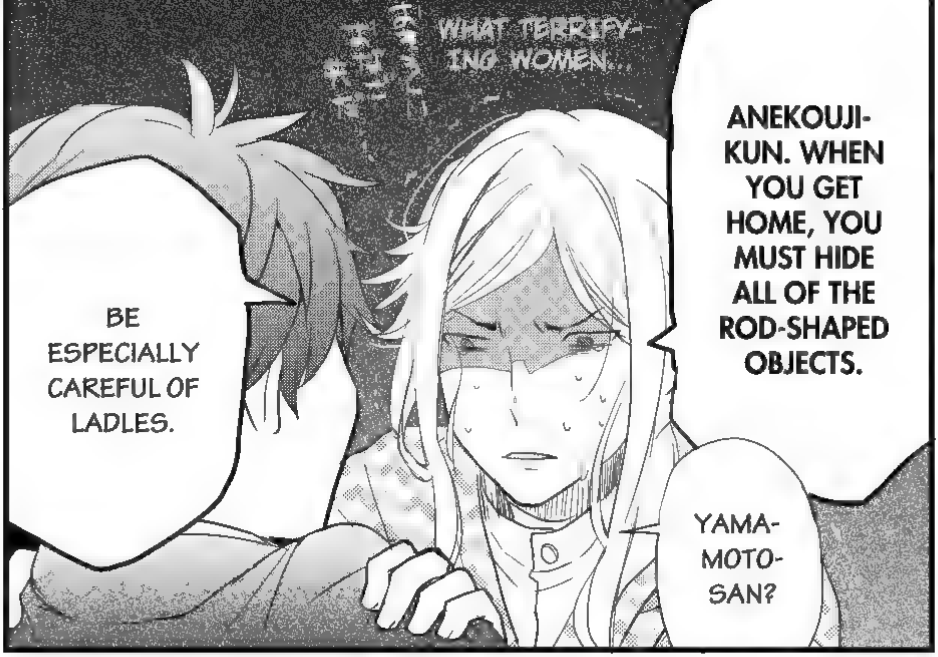
YOU'RE WELCOME...
どういたしまして…
BY THE WAY, THE RUMORS ABOUT THE CULPRIT BEING DIFFERENT IN THE SPECIAL EDITION
WERE TRUE.
I HAD THEM PUT IT AWAY IN THOSE SHELVES.
THANK YOU.
WHAT?!
NO WAY
えぇっ
IT'S NOT OBVIOUS, THOUGH.
THINGS ARE PHRASED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY HERE AND THERE.
IF YOU READ INTO IT, IT'S POSSIBLE THE CULPRIT IS SOMEONE ELSE.
NORMALLY THE FIRST EDITION ISN'T CHANGED.
MINE IS A TENTH EDITION.
THAT AUTHOR MAY PLAY THOSE KINDS OF GAMES.
THE WORD-PLAY IS EXQUISITE.
THEY'RE GETTING ALONG
仲よしだ
WHAT A TASTEFUL CONVERSATION...
LET'S HAVE A PROPER HIGH SCHOOL GIRL CONVERSATION.
I WAS HAVING FUN BEFORE.


A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL CONVERSATION...
EVERY GIRL HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT HER LOVE LIFE.
THERE'S GOTTA BE OTHER TOPICS!
LIKE CONSTIPATION!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS, MAYUMI-SAN?

WHISPER
WHAT DID WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL?
OH!
SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.

DO YOU EVER FANTASIZE ABOUT USA-KUN AND SHIRO-SAN GETTING TOGETHER?
PFFFT
THEY CAN HEAR YOU
だから声デカイ
OH

YOU WERE CRAZY IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL
中学時代すごかったんだ
WHEN THEY WERE DOING THEIR MAKE-BELIEVE "MURDER MYSTERY IN THE STEAM" AT THE BATHS YESTERDAY,
THE OLD YOU WOULD'VE IMMEDIATELY CHANGED IT TO THE "STEAMY MURDER MYSTERY (IN A SEXY KIND OF WAY)."
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, TSUNEDA-SAN.
TSUNEDA-SAN, ARE YOU FEELING WELL?
HM?
THEY'RE COUGHING REALLY HARD.
I'LL BRING THEM SOME WATER.
COUGH
ごほ
ごほ
COUGH
COUGH
← 3人分 THREE PEOPLE
YOU WROTE NOVELS AND MODELED YOUR CHARACTERS AFTER TEACHERS AND BOYS IN OUR CLASS.
I WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT USING OUR TEACHER'S FAVORITE PEN THAT WAY...
TSUNEDA-SAN.
I BROUGHT SOME WATER
水です！
GOING BY HOW YOU USED TO THINK
あの頃の尖ってた津田ちゃんを思い出すと
YOU'VE GOT PLENTY TO WORK WITH IN KAWAI COMPLEX.
FOR EXAMPLE...


WHAT TERRIFYING WOMEN...
ANEKOUJI-KUN. WHEN YOU GET HOME, YOU MUST HIDE ALL OF THE ROD-SHAPED OBJECTS.
YAMAMOTO-SAN?
BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL OF LADLES.

I CAN'T IMAGINE USA-KUN AND SHIRO-SAN DOING ANYTHING TOGETHER AT ALL.
NO ONE COULD IMAGINE THAT...

I JUST WROTE THOSE FOR FUN.
YOU'D USE A PEN THAT WAY FOR FUN? THAT'S TERRIFYING.

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
I'M GONNA GO LISTEN IN.

HOW WAS IT, SHIRO-SAN?

I'M NOT SURE.

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE THIS SOUND HEART-WARMING

なにほだされてんだ！

I'M NOT

HEH HEH...

IT MADE ME...

...KIND OF HAPPY.

COME TO THINK OF IT,

YOU DID SAY YOU COULD NEVER WRITE ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS.

Y'ALL MUST BE CLOSE.

GIGGLE

YAMA-MOTO-SAN, CALM DOWN.

HIS PRI-VATES MUST BE ROUGH AND WILD AS WELL!

YOU MUST RUN, ANE-KOUJI-KUN!!

WE NEED TO BECOME MATURE ADULT WOMEN.
TSUNEDA-SAN, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT OUR FANTASIES.
HMPH
YOU'VE GOT A GREAT REMODELING SAMPLE RIGHT HERE. WATCH AND LEARN.
PEOPLE TELL ME I'M CHILDISH ALL THE TIME.
THAT'S WHY I PUT MORE EFFORT INTO MAKEUP AND CLOTHES...
BUT I CAN'T DO IT MYSELF!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT GOOD LOOKS...
WHAT?
DON'T CALL ME "RE-MOD-ELED"!
WHISPER
WHEN DID YOU START MAKING A DUCK FACE ALL THE TIME?
NABE-CHAN.
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT YOU.

SINCE THE MOMENT I WAS BORN.

THERE WERE SOME REAL NOSTALGIC SHOTS IN HERE.

LIKE FROM OUR SCHOOL TRIP DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

I WANNA SEE THOSE!

THE OTHER DAY, I UP-LOADED THE PHOTOS FROM MY OLD PC

TO AN ONLINE ALBUM.

I FORGOT THAT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS KNOWN HOW TO MAKE YOUR MOUTH SHAPED LIKE THAT?

DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE SOME KIND OF TRICK

TSUNEDA-SAN, YOU HAVE SUCH A TERRIBLE MEMORY.

?

WHAT? IN THAT CASE...

CLATTER

WHOA!

GIVE ME THAT!

DON'T!

SHRIEK
SCREAM
ONCE THE GATE IS BROKEN, IT IS NEVER TRULY THE SAME AGAIN.
THEY'RE MAKING A LOT OF NOISE.
I'M GONNA TELL THEM TO BE QUIET.
HEY!
SAYA-KA-SAN...
CRASH
AH!

GO HOME IMMEDI-ATELY.
YOU GOT AN UNDERLING. THAT'S GREAT.
PLEASE MAKE ME YOUR APPRENTICE!
WATA-NABE-SAN... NO, GRAND WIZARD WATA-NABE!
MAKEUP IS TERRIFYING
けしょうこわい
けしょうこわい
MAKEUP IS TERRIFYING

I'LL BE BACK
また来るね！
TSUNEKO-SAN WENT HOME.
AFTER CREATING A STORM IN EVERYONE'S HEARTS,

YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?!
USA-SENPAI, IS THIS
NO! WE BOTH WORK THERE...
SHE SAID SHE'D FIX IT AS SOON AS THE HOLIDAY ENDED.
OH.
SORRY...
ぶ PFFFT
SENPAI, WAY TO GO.
BUT THE ATMO-SPHERE'S SO NICE.
I TOLD YOU SHE WASN'T HIS GIRL-FRIEND.
BESIDES, I'M INTERESTED IN HER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
大正 恋愛写真

WHY?

I WANNA GO TODAY

I DON'T HAVE CLUB ACTIVITIES TODAY

SAKU-MA, TAKE ME THERE!

WHY?

KIND OF.

DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE WHERE USA-SENPAI WORKS?

I WAS SO SHOCKED WHEN YOU TURNED UP IN MY SEARCH FOR HOUSEBOY CAFES.

HEARING ABOUT IT REALLY MADE ME WANT TO GO.

NO, BUT...

I JUST WENT THE OTHER DAY.

ARE YOU BUSY TODAY?

SENPAI, COME WITH US.

...LIKE AN AFTER SCHOOL DATE.

I'LL TRY E-MAILING HER.

HOORAY

I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE INVITE KAWAI-SENPAI, TOO?

THAT'S...

IT'S FROM SEN-PAI...

!

どう書こ…
WHAT SHOULD I SAY...

RINGALING

I'M HOLDING A STUDY SESSION AGAIN TODAY.
今日も勉強会になった
先帰ってて
DON'T WAIT FOR ME.
I WONDER WHAT'S FOR DINNER TODAY...
今日のご飯なにかな…

oh...

USA-SENPAI, ARE YOU BUSY, TOO?

THEY HAVE THEIR EXAMS.

ROGER.
I'M ACTUALLY ABOUT TO HEAD TO THE HOUSEBOY CAFE WITH SAKUMA AND SHIINA FOR SOME REASON.
IF YOUR STUDY SESSION ENDS EARLY, PLEASE STOP BY.
DO YOUR BEST!
ARE YOU IN THE LIBRARY RIGHT NOW? IF YOU ARE, LOOK OUTSIDE!
I'M REALLY HOPING FOR HAMBURG STEAK TONIGHT!

JUMP
ば
RIT-CHAN?

DID YOU WANT TO GO HOME TOGETHER?
NO.
TWO LITTLE PUPPIES...
PFFFT
HE REALLY IS NOTHING LIKE YOU.
WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT ON YOUR WAY HOME?
WHAT DO WE TALK ABOUT?
USUALLY I READ...
なんか つかない 想像
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT
WHAT?
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THEY'VE GROWN CLOSER.
WHAT
YOU READ EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE WALKING HOME TOGETHER?
USA-KUN SAID IT'S OKAY...
EVEN THOUGH THEY SAY IT'S OKAY, A LOT OF MEN ACTUALLY WORRY ABOUT THOSE THINGS.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

HIRO-SE'S STILL NOT READY...
TAKA-HASHI-KUN, HYPO-THETI-CALLY SPEAKING,
WHAT WOULD YOU THINK IF THE GIRL YOU WALK HOME WITH ALWAYS READ BOOKS?
HIROSE
WHAT?
WELL, I WOULDN'T LIKE IT.
IT'D BE AWKWARD
B-BUT...
HE SAID I COULD READ.
IT'S NEVER BOTHERED HIM BEFORE.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO GO HOME WITH HER ANYMORE.
SHE PROB-ABLY FEELS THE SAME WAY
.....
SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT KAWAI.
MAEMURA NEVER PHRASES HER QUESTIONS WELL...
IN THAT CASE...

...I HOPE I'M NOT MAKING HIM SICK OF ME.

NO WAY.
KUROKAWA-SAN STILL HASN'T COME BACK TO WORK?
HE SAID HE HAD AN ASSIGNMENT DUE SOON. I TOOK HIS SHIFT FOR HIM.
I'M NOT DOING IT FOR HIM, THOUGH. I CAN'T ALLOW HIS GRADES TO DROP AND TARNISH THE MASTER'S REPUTATION.
THAT'S NO FUN.
HE SEEMS TO BE GETTING ALONG WITH A FEMALE STUDENT WHO CAN WHOLESOMELY HANDLE BALLS.
ANEKOUJI-KUN IS AT THE TABLE IN THE BACK.
BALLS?
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S HERE WITH KAWAI-SENPAI?
HIS GATE IS SECURE
GOOD, GOOD
WELL, WELL...
HEH HEH
THAT'S PERFECT TIMING, THOUGH.
I BROUGHT THE BOOK I BORROWED FROM HER THE OTHER DAY.
USA...
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO BE HER FRIEND.
IT'S NOT SURPRISING SHE WAS INTERESTED.
AFTER ALL, WE BOTH LOVE BOOKS...

.....
WHAT?

THANKS, RIT-CHAN.

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

I'M GOING TO CRAM SCHOOL

ぎゅ～～～

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, TAKAHASHI-KUN.

BUT...

KAWAI-SAN.

I'M SORRY, I GUESS.

FOR SAYING SOMETHING WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW THE DETAILS.

MAEMURA'S PRETTY BAD, TOO.

I WONDER IF HE'S STILL THERE.

ROGER.

I'M ACTUALLY ABOUT TO HEAD TO THE HOUSEBOY CAFE WITH SAKUMA AND SHIINA, FOR SOME REASON.

IF YOUR STUDY SESSION ENDS EARLY, PLEASE STOP BY.DO YOUR BEST!

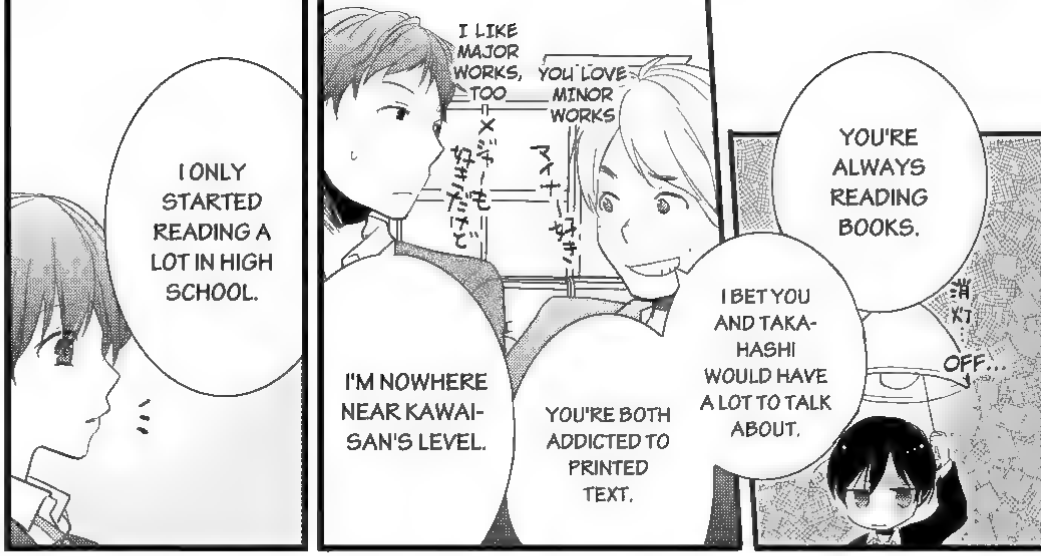
ARE YOU IN THE LIBRARY RIGHT NOW? IF YOU ARE, LOOK OUTSIDE!

I'M REALLY HOPING FOR HAMBURG STEAK TONIGHT!

BUT...

KAWAI'S ALWAYS GLOOMY—
でレっ
WHACK
BUT TODAY,
YOU SEEMED KIND OF DOWN.
I JUST...
...IMPOSE ON HIS KINDNESS.
WHAT YOU SAID IS ACCURATE
AND NATURAL.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M ALWAYS GLOOMY.
ごめんって
SORRY
I'M GOING HOME.
OH...
DOOM
OH!
DOOM

I REALLY LIKE THAT AUTHOR.
YOU DO, TOO?
I RECOMMENDED THEM TO HIROSE, BUT HE DIDN'T LIKE THEM AT ALL.
THE AUTHOR'S WRITING STYLE IS TOO ECCENTRIC.
IT'S SLUGGISH, AND IT TAKES FOREVER FOR ANYTHING TO HAPPEN.
THE STORIES ARE SO PLAIN, TOO
地味な話もだしね
YEAH.
REALLY?
THEY'RE NOT VERY POPULAR, SO I'M GLAD SOMEONE AGREES.
ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT GREAT!
YEAH!
YEAH ネ
THEIR WRITING HAS A UNIQUE RHYTHM, TOO.
THEIR ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS AND METAPHORS KIND OF TOUCH YOUR HEART.
THE LIGHTS TURNED ON IN KAWAI'S HEAD.
PFFFT
ぶっ


I ONLY STARTED READING A LOT IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I LIKE MAJOR WORKS, TOO
YOU LOVE MINOR WORKS
メジャーも好きだけど
マイナー好き
I'M NOWHERE NEAR KAWAI-SAN'S LEVEL.
YOU'RE BOTH ADDICTED TO PRINTED TEXT.
I BET YOU AND TAKA-HASHI WOULD HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS READING BOOKS.
SHIKI
OFF...

OH! THAT'S PRETTY FUNNY. IT'S AN EASY READ, TOO.
THE FIRST SERIES I REALLY GOT INTO WAS THE "CROSS-DRESSING DETECTIVE" SERIES.
I DIDN'T DIS-LIKE BOOKS, BUT I NEVER HAD THE OP-PORTUNITY.
THAT'S SUR-PRISING. I THOUGHT YOU ALWAYS DID.
I STARTED BRANCHING OUT FROM THERE.
REALLY?

I BET YOU CAN'T PULL YOURSELF AWAY FROM A BOOK-SHELF.
URGH
RIGHT ON.
SHIKI
OH.

MY GRAND-FATHER WAS A BIG READER AND HAD LOTS OF BOOKS.
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'VE BEEN READING SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE.

THE GUY YOU MENTIONED EARLIER SAID HE DOESN'T MIND WHEN YOU READ, RIGHT?
YEAH.
HE MUST REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT SIDE OF YOU.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I MAY HAVE BEEN WRONG.
BUT...
IF YOU STILL THINK YOU DID SOMETHING WRONG,
YOU JUST NEED TO BE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON.
UM
THANK YOU.
NO PROBLEM
IF ANYTHING ELSE COMES UP, YOU CAN TALK TO ME.
THERE WON'T BE ANY SNEAK ATTACKS NEXT TIME.
HA HA HA
IN THAT CASE,
I DO HAVE ONE REQUEST.

HAH
HAH
YOU'RE LATE.

THEY SEEM PRETTY CLOSE.
HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?
THEY WERE GETTING ALONG SO WELL, YOU WOULDN'T THINK THEY JUST MET IN APRIL.
HE JUST LEFT WITH A CUTE LITTLE UNDERCLASSMAN!
HAYASHISA—
USA-KUN'S NOT HERE ANYMORE.
WHAT?
WHAT?
IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE LAST YEAR, SO I DON'T REALLY CARE.
PLEASE BE MY FRIEND
仲よくしてください
センパイ
SENPAI
OH...
SENPAI
SENPAI
センパイ
センパイ
かわいい?
THAT'S CUTE?
THEY'RE ALWAYS SAYING "SENPAI, SENPAI" AND REALLY SEEM TO LOOK UP TO HIM, TOO.
I GUESS THEY GET ALONG SINCE THEY SEEMED TO BE HAVING A LOT OF FUN. USA-KUN SEEMED TO BE REALLY ENJOYING HIMSELF, TOO.
DOES SHE REALLY ONLY SEE HIM AS A FRIEND?
IF IT'S BEEN THAT WAY SINCE LAST YEAR, WHY IS SHE SO COMPOSED?
BUT THE OTHER DAY...
SHE RUSHED TO GET HERE TODAY, TOO

THOSE TWO REALLY SEEM TO GET ALONG.
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO FORCE HIMSELF TO MATCH HER PACE.
HE SEEMED MORE NATURAL THAN WHEN HE SPENDS TIME WITH SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW.
SHE'S SO CALM, IT'S PISSING ME OFF.
THOSE TWO?
MAYBE USA-KUN REALIZED CHEERFUL AND STRAIGHTFORWARD GIRLS ARE MORE FUN TO BE AROUND.
AN UNDERCLASSMAN USED TO LIKE HIM IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, TOO.
WHAT ABOUT SAKUMA-KUN?

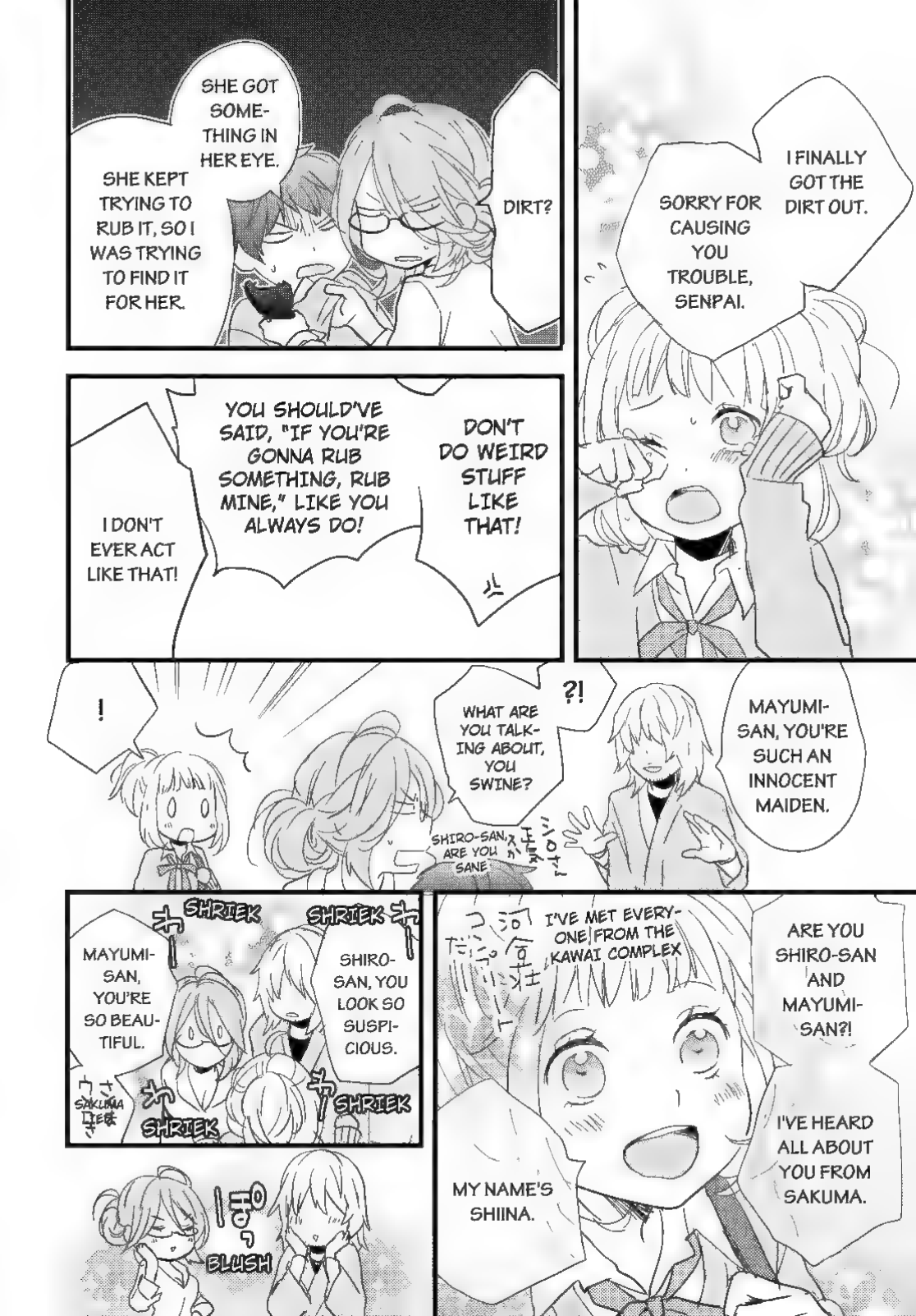
USA WAS HERE WITH A CUTE GIRL!
I DON'T KNOW WHO SAKUMA-KUN IS,
BUT ISN'T HE A BOY? HE WASN'T HERE.
I DON'T THINK THEY'D APPRECIATE THAT COMING FROM YOU.
THE EVIL-LOOKING AND ANTISOCIAL ONE...
.....
?
.....
?
??
.....

I'M GOING HOME.
WAIT...
RINGA-LING
♪カロン カロン
ありがとうございました
THANK YOU
YOU...
YOU SHOULD'VE MADE THAT FACE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
HEY, IT'S RIT-CHAN.

YOU'RE NOT READING. HOW UNUSUAL.
.....
I GUESS IT'S MORE NORMAL NOT TO READ WHILE YOU WALK.
.....
I'M ALREADY HOME.
THE NEW GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE USA WAS AWFULLY PERSISTENT AGAIN TODAY.
HE'S NOT EASILY DISCOURAGED
JUST LIKE USA.
YOU SHOULD GO OUT WITH HIM SOMETIME.
NO WAY. HE'S NOT MY TYPE.
BUT YOU DON'T DISLIKE HIM, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT I GUESS HE DOESN'T EXCITE ME THAT MUCH.
BUT SINCE HE'S A LOT LIKE USA, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM CHEATING!
ONLY THAT ASPECT'S IDEAL.
BUT...
OOF!
STOP

?
WHY DID YOU SUD-DENLY STOP?
.....
WHAT?

WAY TO GO, YOU BASTARD!
WITHOUT YOUR SINGLE-MINDEDNESS, YOU'RE JUST A BUNCH OF PROTEINS...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
LISA-KUN
EEK!
"NOTE PROTEASE AN ENZYME THAT BREAKS DOWN PROTEINS MAYUMI-SAN STUDIED ALL KINDS OF THINGS WHILE DIETING"
YOU DIDN'T MEAN IT WHEN YOU SAID YOU ONLY HAD EYES FOR SENPAI, HUH?
CRACKLE
I'LL JAM YOU FULL OF PROTEASE, BREAK YOU DOWN, AND DUMP YOU DOWN THE DRAIN.
WHAT?!
CRACKLE
FROM NOW ON, I'LL CALL YOU,
"THE BAG THAT SAYS IT CAN BE OPENED ANYWHERE, EVEN THOUGH IT CAN'T BE."
SO LONG!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I...
OUCH...


SHE GOT SOMETHING IN HER EYE.
SHE KEPT TRYING TO RUB IT, SO I WAS TRYING TO FIND IT FOR HER.
DIRT?
I FINALLY GOT THE DIRT OUT.
SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE, SENPAI.
I DON'T EVER ACT LIKE THAT!
YOU SHOULD'VE SAID, "IF YOU'RE GONNA RUB SOMETHING, RUB MINE," LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO!
DON'T DO WEIRD STUFF LIKE THAT!
!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU SWINE?
?!
SHIRO-SAN, ARE YOU SANE
MAYUMI-SAN, YOU'RE SUCH AN INNOCENT MAIDEN.
SHRIEK
MAYUMI-SAN, YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL.
SHRIEK
SHIRO-SAN, YOU LOOK SO SUSPICIOUS.
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
SAKUMA
BLUSH
I'VE MET EVERYONE FROM THE KAWAI COMPLEX
ARE YOU SHIRO-SAN AND MAYUMI-SAN?!
I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU FROM SAKUMA.
MY NAME'S SHIINA.

WE MISSED EACH OTHER.
KAWAI-SENPAI, DID YOU JUST GET HOME?
HUH?
I DIDN'T NOTICE.
I'M GOING HOME — USA
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE JUST TOLD HER YOU WERE LEAVING. YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED IF SHE COULD COME, USA-SENPAI.
NEXT TIME LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER.
YOU LIKE BOOKS, DON'T YOU?
I LIKE THEM, TOO.
JUST LIGHT NOVELS, THOUGH
CALM DOWN, YOU IDIOT.
YOU'RE SCARING SENPAI
WHAP
OW.
I'LL STOP BY SOMETIME
GOOD NIGHT
I WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN, I GOT OVEREXCITED.
SORRY
.....
I'VE HEARD ABOUT HER,
BUT SHE'S A NICE GIRL.
IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF REFRESHING.

AND SHE'S REALLY SELF-AWARE, TOO, SO SHE GETS ALONG WITH EVERYONE
SHE'S PRETTY CONSIDER-ATE, TOO.
SHIINA'S A REALLY NICE GIRL!
SHE'D PROBABLY GET ALONG WITH YOU, TOO.
TODAY... I THOUGHT SAKUMA-KUN WAS WITH YOU.
SOMETHING CAME UP, AND HE LEFT.
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT DEMON HUNTER THE WHOLE TIME.
.....
REALLY.
HEY!
SENPAI!

UM...
AN AFTER SCHOOL DATE...
NEXT TIME WE SHOULD GO TO-GETHER!
NOT JUST THE TWO OF US.
もちろん
OF COURSE
I'LL INVITE SHIINA AND SAKUMA AGAIN.
I'M GOING TO HAVE MORE STUDY SES-SIONS FOR A WHILE.
SORRY.
REALLY? DO YOUR BEST.
I GUESS SHE CAN'T HELP IT. SHE HAS EXAMS...
SIGH
.....
DIDN'T YOU SEE HER FACE?
HUH?
WHAT FACE?

.....

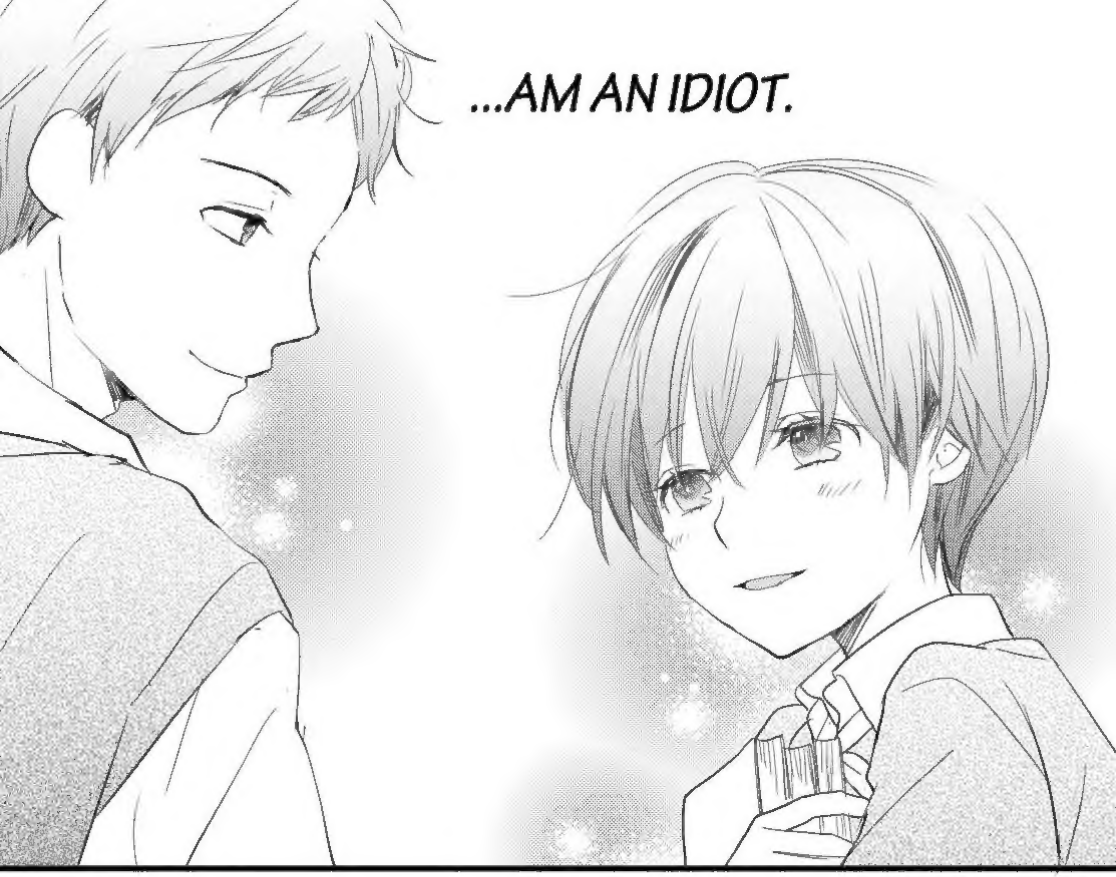
URGH
WELL...
.....

IN WHAT WAY?
YOU'D BETTER NOT WAVER!
ALSO, WHAT FACE?

I DEFINITELY DON'T EVER DO THAT!
SH-SHUT UP! QUIT BEING SO INSOLENT, YOU VIRGIN!
YOU SHOULD KEEP ENTERTAINING ME WITH YOUR COMICALLY FRUITLESS LOVE LIFE!
YOU IDIOT!
.....
WHAT?
NOTHING.
I WAS JUST THINKING YOU'RE REALLY NICE.
YOU'RE A TRUE MAIDEN.
FLME
MY LOVE LIFE ISN'T FRUITLESS AT ALL.
NOTHING THAT DRAMATIC HAS HAPPENED,
BUT THINGS ARE CHANGING.
ドゴォ
POW
エクセレント
EXCELLENT!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THAT REALLY PISSES ME OFF!

I WONDER IF SHE HAS ANOTHER STUDY SESSION
I'LL TRY E-MAILING HER...
USA.
YOU'VE GOT LIBRARY DUTY TODAY.
I FORGOT.
BUT THE TIMING'S PERFECT.
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TALK MUCH LATELY,
SO I'LL QUIETLY CHECK IN ON HER.
ISN'T THAT YOUR...
MAEMURA-SENPAI'S FRIEND...
...IS A GUY?!

WHICH IDIOT TOLD HER TO TRY BEING FRIENDS WITH HIM?
IT WAS ME.
BUT SENPAI AND GUYS...
OH, YEAH. KAWAI.
HERE'S THE THING YOU ASKED FOR THE OTHER DAY...
I RECOMMEND THESE BOOKS.
THEY'RE JUST LIGHT NOVELS, BUT THEIR CONTENT IS PRETTY STOUT.
おもしろそう
THEY LOOK INTERESTING...
ニヤニヤ
WHISPER
I...



I KNEW THINGS HAD CHANGED,

AND I KNEW THEY WOULD KEEP CHANGING.

BUT...

I THOUGHT MY LOVE LIFE

ONLY STARRED ME AND SENPAI.